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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

King Hussein not pessimistic over Netanyahu's victory

By Josh Friedman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NEW YORK—Dismay in Arab capitals over the victory of Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu apparently is not bothering Amman. In fact, HM King Hussein declared himself "happy" and "impressed indeed" with Netanyahu in an interview with *Newsday* this week.

King Hussein is in the United States to confer with President Clinton about the Mideast peace process. During a visit here to receive an honorary degree, the King said he hoped Netanyahu would accelerate the peace process, which he said has gone too far to be reversed. Despite his warmth toward the new administration, the King said he had rebuffed an attempt by Netanyahu to draw Jordan into Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on autonomy. The King also noted that his relations with Syrian President Hafez Assad continue to be strained.

"I was impressed indeed," said the King of what he described as his only face-to-face meeting with Netanyahu.

It took place in Jordan just after the 1994 signing of its peace treaty with Israel. King Hussein said he and Netanyahu had been "very open" with each other.

"And since the election I have received messages to suggest that the prime minister will continue to do his utmost for the cause of peace, and I have no reason to doubt that. I'm very, very happy indeed," he said.

The King sounded that theme again in a visit Tuesday to Washington, D.C., where Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged that Jordan receive 16 F-16 fighter jets worth \$170 million. "I have a feeling that there is no reason for pessimism," King Hussein said about Netanyahu. "I am puzzled by why people are suggesting there is."

The King appears to be committed to working with Israel and the Clinton administration to accelerate the peace process, which he now calls "irreversible."

Time, and the violence, seemed to weigh heavily on the King during the interview and in remarks at New York University, which conferred an honorary law degree on him Monday night.

He said the Israeli-Arab struggle is no longer "the divide" in the Middle East. "I believe that the divide is between those who belong to the peace camp and the few who belong to the camp of darkness, which he described as terrorism, violence and extremism."

He said he would push this position when he attended an Arab summit this month called in reaction to Netanyahu's victory over acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres, one of the architects of the ongoing Israeli drive to come to terms permanently with its neighbors.



Tellingly, while he spoke well of Netanyahu—and devotion of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—King Hussein never mentioned Peres on the record. The King's relationship with Peres, never as warm as it had been with Rabin, appeared to sour dramatically after the artillery shelling deaths of more than 100 Lebanese civilians in anti-terrorist retaliation during the election campaign.

But relations with Syria's Assad, who has traditionally harbored groups of Palestinians opposed to Jordan, seem very sour indeed—and unlikely to warm during the summit. The two men have been seen together only at funerals in recent years—and apparently don't talk on the phone.

"I haven't spoken to President Assad," he said, when asked whether Netanyahu's election has pushed Arab leaders together.

"I've spoken once or twice with him in the last few years but only on the personal level, nothing to do with politics," he said. "If the summit takes place, it will be the first time I'll have an opportunity to speak with him on political matters since a long time ago."

Owners, editors compete for control of press body

By Munther Hamadan
Star Staff Writer

MEMBERS OF THE Jordan Press Association (JPA) are involved in an intensive campaign for next July's elections. Five candidates are competing for post of president. Mr. Seif El Sherif, general manager of *Ad Dastour* daily, is the candidate of the newspaper owners, while the other four represent the editors. The campaign heated up suddenly when the rest of contenders recently formed an alliance against Mr. El Sherif. "This alliance is not democratic," Mr. El Sherif told *The Star*.

Another division among journalists that surfaced recently is the notion of the old guard bailing the new

within the 350-member press community. This complicated the race and created at least two competing factions. The old guard, seen as founders of the association, are accused of being old-fashioned and unable to work or sympathize with the younger members.

"These labels are created for election purposes and those who promote them are unqualified to bear responsibility," said Arafat Hijazi, a former president of the JPA. He added that journalism is measured by experience which is what the new generation needs. "I neither belong to the old nor to the new. I take a middle position and think all journalists should work together regardless of age or descriptions," El Sherif stressed.

But the association, which represents journalists from the private and public sectors, has always seen controversial elections in the past. The issues have not changed much, but the reality is that the association is not seen as doing much to improve the conditions of its members. It's health insurance and housing funds have had to be downsized because of financial constraints.

It's law has always been criticized as archaic and too restrictive preventing many seasoned writers and reporters from joining in. But now with a new draft law in the pipelines, many members see this year's elections as crucial.

The growing number of newspapers gave editors the

opportunity to have a wider representation on the JPA council. The current law of the association gives editors three seats on the council and three for the owners of the newspapers.

"In comparison to the large number of editors, owners are in a minority," said Al Shuboul, an editor at *Al Aswaa* daily. He added that El Sherif has been frequently criticized by the general assembly of the JPA for not being an editor. Mr. El Sherif rejects these claims.

The implementation of the so-called "one percent issue" which refers to a paragraph in the current association law calling on newspapers to give away one percent of their advertising revenue to the asso-

ciation, has been for long the cornerstone of the candidates' manifestos. While the association is in a desperate need for revenues, "the owners of the press establishments refrained from paying these dues," said Al Shuboul.

But some owners say that the one percent issue is not fair and propose that the association's share be taken from net profits of the newspapers.

El Sherif said that the one percent issue is a right of the association which has been continuously postponed. "The current council, of which I am a member, took legal action against the newspapers to force them to abide by the law," he added.

The common belief among

Russian voters look for security amid depression

By Susan Sachs
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

USSURISK. Russia—As smoke curls around her through the drizzle, Lyubov Kargapolskaya spots a discarded cabbage in the smoldering pile of garbage. She grabs it and with quick slices of her knife pares away the rotten part, then drops the rest into a bucket for dinner.

"We used to be shown films of Americans digging through garbage dumps," the sick-thin woman complained, bending once more to scan the trash for edible treasure. "I never thought it would happen here."

Like many Russians bitter about the loss of their once-mighty empire and pining for days when foreigners couldn't set foot in frontier towns like Ussurisk in the Far East, Kargapolskaya will vote Communist in the 16 June presidential election.

She said so with grim challenge in her voice and one eye kept warily on the Chinese man standing by the nearby vegetable warehouse, one of the thousands of Asian traders whose cheap produce has driven Russian goods out of the local markets.

ket reforms and simply shut down, leaving her dependent on relatives and on scavenging. "We need order."

In the five years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, nothing has changed more than Russians' image of themselves and their country. Where some see a nation of economic opportunity and long-sought political freedom, others see a dismembered superpower begging for foreign aid and defenseless against an onslaught of foreign traders, religious cults and ideas.

For President Boris Yeltsin's 10 challengers in the presidential race, the nostalgia for a disciplined and fearsome Russia is fertile ground. Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Communist Gennady Zyuganov, especially, promise to restore Russia to its erstwhile glory as a military power and bring order to the economically ravaged homeland.

Such talk strikes a chord. And nowhere is the sense of dislocation more acute than in the highly militarized Russian Far East, a cold, damp region of tundra, thick forests where the endangered Siberian tiger roams, and towns of regulation-gray Soviet-built apartment blocks like Ussurisk. The 2.3 million people of the maritime region gave more than 40 percent of their votes in December's parliamentary elections to

Zhirinovskiy's party and the Communists—a higher percentage than the national results of 33 percent.

"We're sick of talking to the United States like a losing partner," said Eduard Dombrovskiy, the sprightly 59-year-old secretary of the Ussurisk Communist Party. "We want to see our country just as strong as your country. Those leaders who call

themselves democrats have betrayed us!"

"Look what they put on television all the time—all that foreign music and foreign goods to make our young people think their happiness lies with other places!" he added. "I tell you, every time you buy a pair of sneakers from China it just pulls the noose around your neck even tighter!"

Russian-made cars are rare in the Maritime Territory that includes Vladivostok and Ussurisk. Most people careen around in cheaper, used Japanese imports, even though the steering wheels are on the right-hand side.

South Korean businessmen have built a Korean college at Vladivostok University to teach the Korean language and business law.

While the Russian Orthodox Church struggles to renovate its few remaining buildings, the Unification Church of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon is putting up a spanking new edifice to accommodate its growing congregation. Pentacostals have made inroads. An increasingly popular Ba'hai prayer group meets weekly in the city museum, where the old Vladivostok trading family of actor Yul Brynner—once regarded as exploiters of the working class—now rates its own exhibit. There is a thriving Hare Krishna group, complete with restaurant, as well.

At the "Chinese market" in Ussurisk, only 18 miles from the border with China, 75-year-old Maria Sanarova sells radish and cabbage seedlings that she raises in her tiny garden plot.

"This is all foreign," she said with a grimace, muttering to the Chinese families selling plastic raincoats and bananas a few feet away. "Russia can produce it. Look at all this land. All our enterprises have been sold off. Everything is falling apart."



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A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

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Busy agenda set for Arab leaders in Cairo

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

ARAB LEADERS and representatives will converge in the Egyptian capital on Friday 21 June to hold an Arab summit, the first since the Gulf crisis erupted about six years ago. His Majesty King Hussein will head the Jordanian delegation to Cairo, the venue of the last Arab summit which was held in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in the summer of 1990.

Jordan has been a supporter of calls to bring Arab leaders together for many years and has vested interest in the success of the forthcoming summit. King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Hassan made a number of statements welcoming the convening of the summit and calling on Arabs to close ranks and revive coordination.

The recent breakthrough was made by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who in recent weeks spent considerable efforts in bringing views together and laying the foundation for the high-level meeting. He held a number of meetings with King Hussein, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and with Syrian and Saudi leadership. Saudi Arabia is also said to be playing an important reconciliatory role with a renewed vigor under Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz.

Jordan is expected to play a role in defusing tension between Egypt and Sudan. But the thorny issue of Iraq, which has not been invited to the summit, will unlikely be settled in the coming Cairo meeting.

Top officials informed *The Star* that Jordan will be contributing actively to the summit's success and will hope to influence its agenda especially

in the foreign ministers meeting which will take place in Cairo on the evening of 21 June and the following day prior to the official opening of the summit.

Naturally the main issue before Arab leaders will be the future of the Middle East peace process, which the Arabs will insist is a strategic choice. The summit will extend its support to Arab countries that has signed peace agreements with Israel and will lend their backing to Palestinian negotiators as they prepare to go into final status negotiations with Israel to decide the fate of Jerusalem, security and water, borders and refugees.

Another point on the leaders' agenda will be spelling out their support of the Syrian and Lebanese stands in their negotiations with Israel. The Arab leaders will reiterate their desire for peace in return for land and will call on Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon.

Another major issue before the Arab leaders will be reconciliation, openness and guaranteeing a minimum level of Arab coordination. The Arab leaders will also stress the policy of non interference in the local affairs of other Arab states.

Combating all forms of terrorism will also figure in the talks and the participants are likely to agree on a level of cooperation to exchange information and curtail growth of terrorist networks.

The Arab leaders will agree to revive the work of the Arab League and its organizations and will call for a more effective role for the organizations in dealing with inter-Arab con-

Continued on page 3

On the Occasion of the
Anniversary of The Great
Arab Revolt and Army Day

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and to the Jordanian People
Its felicitations and best wishes



JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

King receives honorary Doctorate of Law



His Majesty King Hussein received Monday evening the Honorary Doctorate of Law at New York University. During the celebration, which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor and the accompanying delegation, King Hussein delivered the following speech in which he thanked New York University for this privilege and reiterated Jordan's position towards peace.

Umoush quits RJ committee

Islamic Action Front member, deputy Bassam Al Umoush, has resigned from the Lower House Special Committee on Royal Jordanian. Dr. Al Umoush says he is angry with the way the committee deals with its members. The deputy says the recent trip by a number of committee members to three European RJ stations, something which he had knowledge of, was behind his resignation. Members of the committee, which include Dr. Mohammad Abu Alam, Ahmed Al Kasasbeh, Tawfiq Krishan and Khalil Haddadin visited RJ's London, Rome and Madrid offices as part of their ongoing investigation of alleged irregularities in the national airline. The committee is to present a full report of its visit to the Lower House shortly. The visit was criticized by economist Fahd Al Fanek, who wrote in Al Rai recently that the visits could in no way help the committee

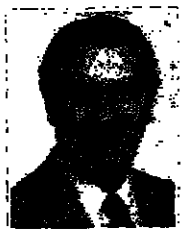


Umoush

find out what is actually happening with RJ since all documents are sent to headquarters on regular basis. He then questioned the choice of the three stations and wondered why the deputies did not visit Cairo, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi, three busy and very important stations for RJ.

People in Fuheis are up in arms

Environmental pollution is the price we have to pay for industrialization, Jordan is no different. Last week, the people of Fuheis demonstrated outside the cement factory that is located at the edge of their town. The subject was environmental pollution. The factory is being accused of polluting the environment by not sticking to the required safety measures. This is something that is hotly denied by officials of the Jordan Cement Factories Co. Many people and organizations joined the demonstration. They



Tu'iemeh

included various environmental groups. Youth, voluntary organizations and voluntary societies were there in full force. They held the factory responsible for environmental pollution something that affects the health of the local population. Lower House deputy Fawzi Tu'iemeh said that there is no doubt that there is an environmental problem emanating from the cement factory and that its management is trying to do something about it.

However, the demonstrators sent telegrams to His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti urging them to act in this matter. The management of the factory was apologetic saying it was doing everything it could to reduce pollution. In a bid to calm fears, General Director Mr. Abed Al Illah Al Khatib said that pollution levels in Fuheis are lower than that in Sweileh or Wadi Al Seir.

Nurses to go back to work

Nurses and midwives are to stop industrial action for the time being. Officials of the Jordanian Nursing and Midwife Association (JNMA) said they have received a pledge from Minister of Health, Dr. Aref Al Bataineh, to look into their grievances and demands. The JNMA wants allowances to increase by 90 percent. Dr. Bataineh promised that there would only be a sliding scale of allowances between 50 percent to 90 percent. However, this is still under negotiations. The JNMA could carry on industrial action if they are not satisfied with the formal offer which they will receive shortly. The JNMA controls 2078 nurses across the country in 21 government hospitals.

Voluntary societies on the increase

The number of welfare societies that are registered with the General Union for Voluntary Societies was 654 in 1995. 11 new societies were registered, 8 of which are in Amman, one in the Balqa governorate and two in Kerak.

Bread prices are not to increase after all

We should thank the government for small mercies. As we waited anxiously for an increase in the price of bread, Al Mad informs us that the government has no intention to effect any raise. Official sources told the weekly that the government will not increase

the price of bread in the near future. Though the government admitted that it is studying ways to lift bread subsidies because of soaring wheat prices worldwide, the decision in the end weighed against any price hikes. It is thought government was advised against any price increase that would hit the poor in society.

Minister of Agriculture in a tussle

Minister of Agriculture Mustapha Shneikat has threatened to resign his post, sources said. The trouble started when the minister refused to grant a license to a businessman to import insecticides. The country's businessman wanted to import from Israel. The businessman bypassed Mr. Shneikat and went straight to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti. Hearing the news, Mr. Shneikat threatened to resign if the businessman was allowed his wish. In the end the Prime Minister backed down, the sources confirmed.



Shneikat

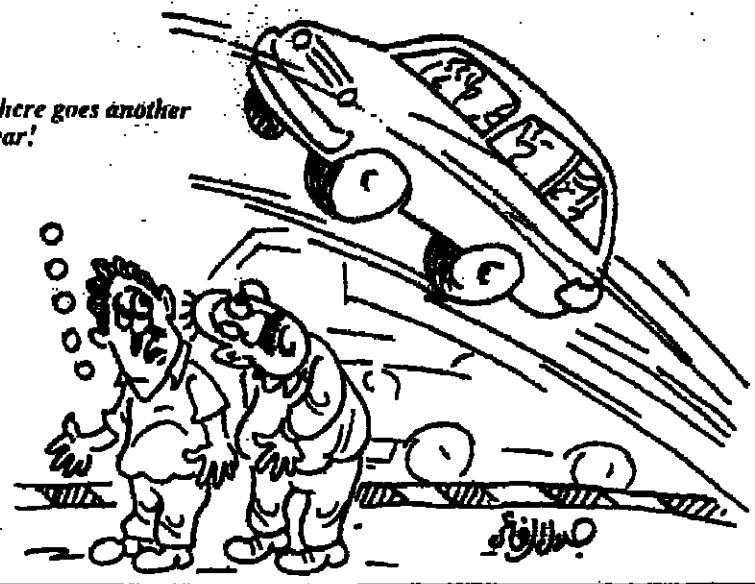
Nuisance calls on the increase

It is nice to know that the Telecommunication Corp. (TCC) has at least recognized that there are people who abuse the phone by making obscene talks. Quite frequently, these involve the so-called "breathers" and others. The TCC has decided to do something about it. In the first quarter of this year, over 900 telephones were put under surveillance. About a 1000 telephone subscribers were warned about such an activity and some even have had their telephone cut for at least 10 days. The Vice-President of the TCC, Mr. Walid Sabar told Ad Dastour that they received many complaints about such activity. He said however, nearly 80 percent of what is described as nuisance phone calls are simply dialing a number and then hanging up.

Conferences

More than 200 leading educational experts, ministers, donors and decision makers from industrialized and devel-

Oh no, here goes another rent-a-car!



Jamil Rihani/Dastour

British Week gets underway

AMMAN (Star)—Mr. Peter Hinchcliffe, the British Ambassador to Jordan announced the start of the British Week in Jordan which will be held from 14 to 21 June. In a press conference held on Wednesday in the Forte Grand Hotel, Mr. Hinchcliffe said "This year sees an important milestone in the long historical relationship between the United Kingdom and Jordan." He added that "the 25 May 1995 is the 50th anniversary of the full independence of Jordan and the termination of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty."



"We are celebrating this important anniversary with a week of British cultural and commercial events that will take place at the Forte Grand Hotel from 14 to 21 June," Mr. Hinchcliffe added. "From our point of view, this symbolizes the importance that the UK attaches to her relationship with Jordan."

The British Week in Jordan is the first event of its kind to be held in the region.

In the British Lifestyle Exhibition (Forte Grand Hotel 16-19 June), over 100 British companies representing the four home countries (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), will participate in a catalogue show and exhibition of quality consumer products.

The product categories that will be featured include clothing and knitwear, giftware and pottery, perfumes and toiletries, food and drink, furniture, fabrics, toys, antiques, stationery as well as sports equipment.

All the companies participating are seeking agents to represent them in Jordan and some are looking for investment opportunities. The British Lifestyle Exhibition is organized by the Department of Trade and Industry in the UK and the Commercial Section of the British Embassy in Amman with the support of the British Council.

The cultural events of the week are a celebration of the many facets of life which the British and Jordanian people have in common,

most importantly, a sense of humor. There will be two performances by the Derek Nimmo Players of their comedy "Bedside Manners" starring the well known John Inman who can presently be seen on Jordanian TV. "The Hiss & Boo Company" will present their variety and theatrical entertainment, starring Ruth Maddock who has starred in many British television and stage comedies. The opening night will feature the Best of West End Musicals. And the "Mop Top Beatles" will come to life in concert. There will also be an exhibition of David Roberts' original paintings, just to name a few of the events that are meant to give you a taste of British culture.

The Forte Grand Hotel will take on an absolutely British atmosphere and will serve British menus in all its restaurants.

Mr. Hinchcliffe hopes that as many people as possible will take advantage of this opportunity and see what the UK can offer. "For me personally British Week will mark the culmination of my Embassy's efforts to improve the already excellent relations which exist between the UK and Jordan in all aspects of the relationship."

opening countries will be meeting in Amman between 16 and 19 June. Convened by UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank, the meeting will examine reports submitted by 70 countries on progress towards achieving the objective of "Education for All" which was adopted by the World Conference on Education for All, held in Thailand in 1990.

The four-day international meeting will discuss important

basic education issues such as female education, teachers' working condition, educational needs in developing countries and education strategies in general.

Held under Royal Patronage, the meeting will also measure success in securing important global goals which 155 countries have pledged to achieve by the year 2000, including total eradication of illiteracy.

Ecopace, a Middle East

NGO environmental forum, will hold a one-day seminar today, Thursday, on 13 June at Amra Hotel in the Nabatean Hall. The meeting is titled "The Dead Sea, Future Challenges." Experts will talk about the environmental development plans relating to the region. Ecopace was established in 1994. Members are Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian NGOs.

A picture can be story in itself, says photojournalist

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

Nicosia—With attendance from many countries, the photojournalism workshop Commission Project started last Sunday evening in Nicosia, Cyprus. Organized by MED Media, 12 photographers from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Turkey participated in the course that lasts for three days which should enable them to enhance the role of photography in modern-day news communication and reporting.

The Project Manager, Mr. Tudor Lohm, spoke at the opening session outlining the goals of the project. "The purpose of your presence here is not photography. You are here to learn more about photojournalism and its role in media." The goals include enhancing the use of photojournalism, organizing it, raising the level of achievement of photographers and presenting new ideas to editors in order to match up with an increasingly competitive market.

The lecture in the three-day workshop, by photographer of the Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant, Theo Adenard outlined the course, which includes three seminars and three assignments. He explained the role of photojournalism is to attain the relative independence from reporting.

"We have introduced pictures without stories. It's not only that sometimes a good picture doesn't have a story to go with it, but it's a fact that a picture can be the story itself." One of the other achievements that photojournalists in the Arab world had to come up

with is the need to get editors to respect a picture and not to reuse it or cut it only to match the layout. It's better to put one picture than to put a picture to every story where each component with one another and confuse the reader."

Also attending the seminar is Mr. Khaleel Shorman, the regional coordinator of MED Media in Jordan, who is organizing the facilities for the photographers. He is also providing the aid for translation for the workshop.

Mr. Andreas Katsouras, the director of the Union of Cyprus Journalists also attended and helped to coordinate the program with the local authorities. Mr. Steve Myers, editor of the Cyprus Mail and Christen Theodorides, a photojournalist at the newspaper, have attended to facilitate the processing and printing of films and photographs, and to supply dark

rooms and the necessary film stock. The success in the approach of MED Media in the project is articulated by the attendance of Turkish photojournalist Unir Bektas. With the recent friction over border and island issues, the project managed to overcome such obstructive political reasons, and not to allow them to interfere with a field that is there to serve the nations of the world.

Abu Shakra introduces Roccobarocco Jeans

GENERAL MANAGER
of Abu Shakra Trading
Agency Mr. Rami Abu
Shakra launched the new
Roccobarocco jeans for
men and women.

Mr. Rami said that with the fervent intensity of a born creator the designer responsible for these new Roccobarocco jeans has come up with a new idea for a perfume that interprets his concept of freedom, not as something merely "casual" but as the spirit to live life to the full.

The young with experience life, not just in terms of age, but in their joy of living, and this perfume. For the first time, the Roccobarocco is interpreting its concept of "youth" not only through the look created but also the mood, the feel as well as the image. With this new creation, you can be and at the same time appear to be a man in style combined with fashion-awareness. Mr. Abu Shakra continued by saying jeans men and women are always relaxed and



NUOVI PROFUMI
roccobarocco



through seeking to belong to this society sharing stereotype behavior and attitudes. They are in charge of input and are projected to it, they do not follow fashion, they create it. This is the strength of the new generation and this is the strength of Roccobarocco jeans. This perfume will be available at Abu Shakra Show rooms and selected perfume stores and perfumeries.

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JUNE 1996

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Abu Shakra introduces Roccobarocco Jeans

GENERAL MANAGER of Abu Shakra Trading Agency Mr. Rami Abu Shakra launched the new Roccobarocco jeans for men and women.

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through seeking to belong to this society sharing stereotype behavior and attitudes. They are in charge of input and are projected to it, they do not follow fashion, they create it. This is the strength of the new generation and this is the strength of Roccobarocco jeans. This perfume will be available at Abu Shakra Show rooms and selected perfume stores and perfumeries.

Project allows Palestinian journalists to use the Internet in Arabic

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (Star)—The Middle East Journal, a project of the Arab Media Center, has launched a new website called "The Arab Media Center" which allows Palestinian journalists to use the Internet in Arabic. The website, which is available in Arabic, English, and Hebrew, provides a platform for Palestinian journalists to share their work and connect with the international media community. The project is a significant step towards increasing the visibility of Palestinian voices in the global media landscape.

Regent calls for joint Arab action during coming summit

AMMAN (Star)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, outlined Jordan's view of the forthcoming Arab summit in Cairo. He said it is based on supporting moves towards joint Arab action.

It is desirable to consolidate joint Arab action in accordance with a comprehensive and objective view and also to view the differences between the special interests and priorities of each country positively, the Regent told the Jordan news agency, Petra.

The Regent asserted that Jordan views the convening of the summit as a step to back the peace process in the Middle East; the peace which was launched under the terms of reference of Madrid Conference and the peace achieved between Egypt and Israel years in 1978. Jordan which has always advocated good neighborly relations respect for the sovereignty of individual state in this region, and the policy of noninterference in their internal affairs believe that all the countries of the region must contribute positively towards that end, including the neighboring Islamic countries, Iran and Turkey.

Since the Gulf War, Iran and Syria, joined by Turkey, have asserted their responsible position vis-a-vis Iraq's territorial integrity and their desire not to intervene in its internal affairs.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, patronized Monday the Armed Forces celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, which was held at the Martyr's Monument. The Prince, who was accompanied by members of the Royal family, was received by Field Marshal Abdel Hafith Mir'i Kaabaneh. The Prince was given an official welcome which included a 21-gun salute. The Prince also participated in a number of functions that day which included a dinner reception held in his honor at the Sports City. Speaking to senior army officers, the Prince said he welcomed the holding of the Arab summit and said its convening is in harmony with Jordan's call for Arab unity.

Amman Gamma Knife First in the Middle East

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

IN ITS quest to stay in the forefront of medical technology and medical services in the Middle East, a private Jordanian hospital recently introduced a \$4 million state-of-the-art machine that is considered a major departure from forms of surgery.

The Leksell Gamma Knife (LGK) has been bought by Ibn Al Haitham Hospital, originally an ophthalmology hospital, to launch its newly established neuroscience center. The deal was cofinanced jointly with the International Company for Medical Investment (ICMI) and Elekta Investments of Sweden.

LGK's advanced technology is the core of radiosurgery treatment, which heals selective disorders such as brain tumors and vascular malformations by using 201 beams of Cobalt 60 without the need for traditional surgery.

In a press conference held last week at Ibn Al Haitham Hospital, experts talked about the advantages of the LGK's technology and efforts exerted to place it in a Jordanian hospital. The conference was attended by the General Director of the hospital Muhammad Noor, Isam Al Hawamdeh head of the executive council of ICMI and Dr. Isahq Maraka, technical director of Amman Gamma Knife in addition to the hospital's medical team. Representing Elekta Investments was its Regional Manager Mr. Jacques Renaud, Prof. Massimo Gerosa, a neurosurgeon from Verona Gamma Knife Center and Associated Prof. Titi Rahn, a Swedish neurosurgeon.

A Jordanian medical team received full training on the Gamma Knife. The team constitutes what is now called Amman Gamma Knife Center, which is unparalleled in the Middle East, for radiosurgery treatment.

"Since it was installed, the instrument has been used to cure six patients within a week, two of them being Arab nationals," said Dr. Hawamdeh. He added that it took two years of research and studies to install the machine. "It is not a substitution to traditional surgery but a support to it," he said.

Mr. Renaud explained that the machine has several functions. It can be an adjunct to traditional brain surgery where the surgeon removes part of the tumor and the rest can be treated by LGK. It can also replace surgery in some acoustic neuromas or offer a possibility of treatment which was not possible prior to this technology.

The Gamma Knife is used to treat deep-seated and often inaccessible tumors and blood vessel malformations in the brain. It is provided with four collimator helmets each with a different beam channel diameter. Two hundred and one fixed cobalt sources are arrayed over a hemisphere to kill abnormal cells without damaging the surrounding healthy tissue. Operations usually require one treatment that takes five to 20 minutes. Patients' recovery is usually quickly and can often leave the hospital the same day or within a couple of days.

The installment of Gamma Knife in Jordan can be looked upon as one of many developments characteristic of Jordan's medical sectors. With the role of the private hospitals enhanced, Jordan has been able to obtain the most up-to-date technology that revolutionized medical treatment. "I did not expect Jordan to be quite developed in the medical field and instead of meeting with novices I was in front of medical expertise," Renaud told The Star. He added that unless Ibn Al Haitham Hospital had had the platform to carry out such a project, they wouldn't have been able to obtain the machine. "Besides the money, they have built a neuroscience center which is necessary for the machine," he said.

The cost of the operation using Gamma Knife is lower than the one done in Europe. "The actual cost of the operation in Jordan amounts to JD 7000," said Dr. Hawamdeh. "If someone from an Arabic country wanted to have this operation he or she can come to Jordan where they can communicate easily with people speaking their language and pay lower costs," Prof. Gerosa added. "If they wanted to go to Europe they would pay between 15 and 20 thousand dollars not mention travel and residence expenses. That is what would make Jordan a possible competitor to Europe in the radiosurgery field," he stressed.

Based on Jordan's constant position in rejecting the policy of axes and alliances, the regent expressed hope that the summit would address the issue of comprehensive security in the region including the security of the Arab Gulf states through an integrated comprehensive policy that could steer us away from the policy of closed axes and limited alliances.

On the future of the peace process with the coming of the Likud party to power in Israel, the Regent underlined the necessity of dealing with the question of peace in accordance with the declared positions of governments and states rather than on the basis of election campaigning.

Everyone in this region should work to promote and build on the peace already achieved and not to go back to the starting point, the Regent said. The return to Madrid means the resumption of the peace process and not a literal return to the very beginning of the peace conference, the Regent noted. In reply to a question on Security Council Resolution 986 allowing Iraq to sell part of its oil and whether this would alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering, the Regent referred to the article in the herald tribune by Roger Normand, policy director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights in Washington which stated that UN agencies estimate that "more than 500,000 Iraqi children have died from hunger and disease—roughly the combined toll of two atomic bombs on Japan and the recent scourge of ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. Children will continue to die in Iraq even after the oil-for-food deal is implemented because the agreement fails to address the economic and legal injustice at the root of the sanctions."

The Regent said it seems that we have entered the phase of media slogan with "oil-for-food" used in the wake of "land for peace."

Ahmad Kasasbeh of the Special Committee on RJ, Government is serious about fighting corruption

EDITOR'S NOTE: Deputy Ahmad Kasasbeh is the joint rapporteur of the Lower House's Special Committee on Royal Jordanian (RJ). Mr. Kasasbeh is now an independent Islamist having split from the Islamic Action Front. He joined the special committee on its latest trip to the RJ's stations abroad after reports of violations. He talked to The Star's Raed Al Abed. Excerpts follow:

Jordanian.

We decided to visit these stations to have a first-hand examination of these claims. We chose the stations that were mentioned in the reports, like London, Madrid, and Rome. As a result of our visits and after discussion with the employees there, we felt that some of the claims were exaggerated. At the same time, we discovered some administrative and financial violations. These particularly related to violations in marketing and in expenses. We found that in some places, RJ is over-employing while other offices were understaffed.

In addition, we found other violations concerning the quality and the nationality of employees.

We also found financial irregularities. This information will now be sent to the Lower House for discussion.

We are not trying to damage the image of RJ. At the same time, we do not regard the airline or its officials beyond criticism and we reserve our right to question them about such violations.

How do you see the resignation of Bassam Al Umoush, a member of the committee who resigned in protest over the trip?

I don't think it is the right time to talk about this issue. But I can say there are documented financial violations.

Busy agenda for Arab leaders in Cairo

Continued from page 1

licts by empowering the president of the upcoming summit and naming him higher president of the Arab League. They will also agree on a timetable for holding further summits on regular basis.

The Arab leaders are expected to launch a number of initiatives to end the international isolation of Libya and Sudan by sending delegations at leadership levels to explain Arab position.

The Arab leaders will also affirm their commitment to Gulf security and will adopt resolutions to prevent foreign intervention in Gulf affairs.

And finally the Arab leaders will attempt to revive economic cooperation by agreeing on a minimum level of cooperation with the aim of sustaining development in the Arab world.

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LURIE'S WORLD



Our Say...

Fears about Netanyahu

THIS WEEK'S revelations by senior Likud officials that the government of Prime Minister elect Benjamin Netanyahu would be willing to deal with the PLO are encouraging indeed. Much has been said about the firebrand policies of Netanyahu with regard to fundamental Palestinian issues. Most are probably true and we know, just as the Palestinian leadership knows by now, that the Middle East peace process is at a crucial crossroads where we are most likely to end up with cold peace and no process.

The United States has been advising the Arabs, who are about to hold their first summit meeting in Cairo next week, not to be hasty and not to block the road of peace. This is ludicrous. The United States should direct its advice to the new leadership in Israel. The Arabs and the Palestinians know only too well that they cannot afford to close the door to peace. The question is can Mr Netanyahu afford to.

Closing the door to peace will probably hurt Israel more than any other party. The Middle East peace process has provided Israel with an historic opportunity to end decades of isolation, conflict and insecurity. While the Arabs have vested interest to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel has so far emerged as the winner in the battle for peace.

The risk of a suspension in the peace process is high for the Palestinians, who have made considerable compromises in order to build the foundations of their independent state on their national soil. But the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular should not panic because of the change within Israel. A comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East cannot be all that if a change in the Israeli government can drive the process into the sea.

The political realities should soften Mr Netanyahu's rhetoric and policies in many ways. But let's not kid ourselves. Mr Arafat's dream of seeing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will not be realized under a Netanyahu-led government.

The important thing for the Arabs today is to support Palestinian steadfastness in the areas still under Israeli occupation and in those recently liberated. Building a state goes beyond symbols and ceremonies.

While the Arabs, and the world community, must not waver in supporting Palestinian inalienable rights including the right of self-determination, the major responsibility today is to ensure the survivability of the liberated areas under Palestinian direct rule.

Mr Netanyahu's election rhetoric, with regard to the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon, makes him stand out as a contradiction of how things ought to be in today's world. If he chooses to wage war against the Palestinians, by unleashing settlement activities, isolating Arab Jerusalem and weakening the PNA, then Israel will find itself once more as an anomaly and a pariah. While we do not expect Mr Netanyahu to make a complete turn around for the better, we do not think he will be foolish enough to make a turn around for the worse. The Palestinians today are an integral part of Israel's life, history and future as Mr Netanyahu is about to find out. ■



Four Israeli soldiers were killed after an ambush by Hizbullah guerrillas in southern Lebanon last Monday. Eight soldiers were also injured. Hizbullah guerrillas slipped into the southern belt which is occupied by Israel and carried out the operation. An Israeli tank retaliated by firing rockets for the next three hours. One Lebanese soldier was injured.

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Arab summitry could be the last of a dying ritual!

By David Hirst

ARAB SUMMITRY is back in fashion. First, the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, met Syria's President Hafez Al Assad, the great opponent of a peace treaty with Israel. Then, he met His Majesty King Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Yasser Arafat.

Today, he confers in Damascus with Mr Assad and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. His Damascus appointment is the most important because in an apparent change of the planned Jeddah venue, Saudi Arabia, a key United States ally, is going out of its way to show solidarity with Syria, because Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria can do more to shape the Arab condition than any other combination of Arab states, and because they hope to make their meeting the gateway for a much broader Arab summit, even a plenary one of the kind not held since Baghdad, 1990.

The victory of Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel's general election has provoked the inter-Arab consultation. His triumph was not as great a surprise to the Arabs as the Israeli elections of May 1977, when, with Menachem Begin at the helm, the Israeli right took power for the first time since Israel came into being. But the right's latest victory is at least as great a shock.

The Saudi newspaper, *Al Sharq Al Awsat* summed up the dominant Arab reaction: "With these elections, the Israelis have said 'no' to peace—even to a peace lopsided in their favor."

For Arabs almost everywhere, the resurgence of the Israeli right makes a mockery of the philosophy which, at US urging, has underlain the Arab approach to the peace process: offer concessions to the Israelis in the hope of securing them in return. The reward of Arab moderation, or submissiveness as Hamas, Hizbullah—and many others—see it, turns out to be greater Israeli extremism.

Though their tone is gloom, Arab governments are careful not to echo too loudly what they know their people think. Mr Assad says "things are not going in a positive direction." Mr Mubarak says they "do not inspire confidence."

Only King Hussein manages optimism: everything, he says, is still on course for a "comprehensive peace." In reality, only Mr Assad has the right to a grim satisfaction: he always said that for each Arab country to go its own way would ultimately be the undoing of them all, that, however selfishly one might profit from the peace process at another's expense, they would pay for its eventual collapse.

It would be very embarrassing for Arab governments, even for Mr Assad, to pronounce the peace process dead or even dying, because the logic of concluding that one's adversary does not want peace is to invoke a military alternative. But they do not have the means or will, even collectively, let alone individually, to make or threaten war, or even to suggest that it is time to start preparing for one.

Yet they know that they cannot go on making concessions either, just to keep the peace process alive. That is what the resurgent right requires of them, what Mr Netanyahu spelled out in his electoral program.

It would be unwise to say that they have given their all; Mr Arafat, for one, always finds something extra. But he is being called upon to engage in "final-

status" who someone who won't even shake hands with him, and to negotiate issues, such as Jerusalem, which the "partner" says are non-negotiable. Mr Assad is expected to re-engage in peace talks with an adversary who says he will never give up the only thing Mr Assad wants, the Golan Heights.

Somehow, therefore, the Arabs have to draw a line, to get Mr Netanyahu to understand that it is not enough to say he wants peace. He must also prove it by going back on an extremist conception of that makes it impossible. The only way they can think of is that old, intuitive standby—Arab summitry. Mr Assad is the most fervent advocate of a pan-Arab strategy. Arab "self-reliance" was always a cardinal tenet of his. His newspapers warn that continued Arab disarray will lead to "a real catastrophe for the whole Arab nation."

The most that any Arab summit could do, in present circumstances, is to send a message to the US. Its essence would be that the peace process is in dire peril and the consequences of its collapse would be as disastrous for the US as for themselves. They would send this message in the conviction that they now occupy the moral high ground, that it should be plain to all—even to the US—that Israel, not they, is the real enemy of peace.

The trouble is that the mere convening of such a conference would be a miracle. Since the Gulf war, and the ostracism of Iraq, the Arabs have fallen into such disarray that even paltry displays of solidarity are beyond them.

Mr Assad says that, in the absence of a full summit, he would go for one of "front-line" Arab states, and yet, according to the Jordanians, he would attend that only if King Hussein and Mr Arafat first admitted the error of their ways.

The danger of calling for Arab summitry which cannot be held is that this sends the opposite message from that which is intended. It increases, not reduces, Arab disarray. That is why, even as he works for a summit, Mr Mubarak has been so cautious about his chances of actually getting one. ■

The Guardian



A view from America:

Peace is big loser in Middle East

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US Correspondent

MAY 29 was a sad day for peace-lovers doves in Israel, in the Middle East, and doves throughout the world.

For on 29 May, Benjamin Netanyahu became the first adroit hawk to be elected as Prime Minister of Israel since Menachem Begin. And he is the very first Israeli Prime Minister to be directly elected by popular vote. By a slim margin, the Likud candidate, representing the extreme rightist element of the socio-economic and especially religious Jewish Israelis, defeated the leader of the Labor party, Shimon Peres.

Immediately following the assassination of his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, Peres enjoyed a 20 percent lead over Netanyahu. Peres, for no cause of his popular support, he decided to hold early elections at the cost of suspending the Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. The Clinton administration was not happy with this decision as it wanted to continue the dynamics of the talks, but accepted the decision of Peres.

What occurred in the ensuing months to erode his credit and popularity in Israel? First, Peres became his own worst enemy. Having already been labeled "The Great Loser," previously being defeated in four elections, he attempted to overcome his image as a

man too willing to bend to the exchange-of-land-for-peace by initiating his air raids in southern Lebanon. Ironically, his assassination predecessor, Rabin, had predicted just such a knee-jerk reaction when questioned about Peres quite some time prior to the heinous murder of Rabin.

The Grapes of Wrath slaughter was a decided disaster. The destruction and bloody loss of life and especially the Qana massacre that killed 106 people, mostly women and children who sought refuge in the UN compound, alienated Arab-Israelis, as it did to many Jews in Israel and elsewhere who refused this military venture for the sake of politics and electioneering.

Most of all, however, the failure of Grapes of Wrath to strip Herzboll's karyothates or even damage the Herzboll's infrastructure destroyed much of the credibility of Peres with security-minded, right-wing Israelis, the very segment of the populace the invasion was supposed to assure by showing Peres as tough on terrorism and commanding in security.

Due to his poor judgment, Peres lost thousands of votes of Arab Israelis who previously supported him. At least 80,000 "votes" were placed in ballot boxes. That is, 80,000 Arab-Israelis deposited unmarked ballots to indicate that although they were making the time to vote, they could no longer choose a man who had bombed civilian neighborhoods in

an area the Israelis illegally had proclaimed their own "security zone" 18 years earlier.

Finally, the last votes to be counted were the 100,000 submitted by military personnel. Always conservative and trained as fighters, these men and women traditionally have preferred combat to exchanging land (in this case the Golan Heights) for peace with Syria.

And now Benjamin Netanyahu is saying he is a man of peace, willing to work with the Americans to continue the peace process, only at a slower rate. Unless he is a leopard who has changed his spots, this is a statement diametrically opposed to all he said and stood for in the past.

He is on record noting he would not shake hands with the Palestinians and that he in no way would allow a Palestinian state. Yet he is a man of peace?

The victory of Netanyahu represents a major, if not deadly blow to the peace camp in Israel. It is a blow to President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher who invested much time and political capital supporting outgoing Prime Minister Peres. It is a blow to King Hussein who was working with Peres toward a mutually profitable peace; to Yasser Arafat who supported Peres; to President Mubarak of Egypt who hosted the Sharm El-Sheikh summit at the request of Clinton; to support the image of Peres.

Further, the election outcome is a slap to those Gulf



Netanyahu

countries which rushed to open diplomatic and trade channels with Israel.

Another loser is King Hussein of Morocco who almost equaled Clinton in supporting Peres. The final loser is Turkey, whose separatist cooperation agreements with Israel, alienating a sizeable segment of the Turkish people themselves and especially, with its policy of damming the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, antagonizing the Eastern and Southern neighbors of Turkey—Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

But by far, the greatest loser is that segment of the world population that yearns for peace. Peace in the Middle East had become a symbol. If there could be peace among these countries, there could be peace in any area.

Apparently, the voters did not want peace. ■

A reply to Yasser Arafat

By Zeid Qaddoumi

AFTER READING Mr Arafat's statement, "The independent state will be announced soon... And Mr Netanyahu's promises to respect the agreements," (Ad Dastour 6 June, 1996) I could not help but wonder, what does the Palestinian leader take us for?

Of course, Mr Netanyahu will respect the agreements, but the fact that Mr Arafat conveniently ignored is that the agreements never guaranteed an independent state. Furthermore, it seems Mr Arafat did not comprehend Mr Netanyahu's refusal of the idea of an independent state.

Statements like these can only mean two things. Either Mr Arafat didn't understand that when he signed the Declaration of Principles (DOP) (13 September, 1993) that the Palestinians were robbed of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence or he

thinks we are ignorant and uneducated. I will try to scratch the surface of the intentions of the DOP and the letters exchanged after the signing. The first point deals with the basis on which the end result is to be achieved. Article 1 of the DOP states that the final stage of the "peace process" is a "permanent autonomous arrangement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338." Negotiations based on these only demonstrate how the PLO and Israel ignored all the other resolutions passed by all UN bodies such as Resolution 194, which calls for expatriation and repatriation of Palestinian refugees. Also, the agreement follows a "four-point" process, yet it lacks a mechanism to go from one stage to the next.

Second, the agreement fails to mention the Palestinians not residing in the West Bank and Gaza, living without a state in Lebanon, Syria etc... who consist of

more than 20 percent of the Palestinian population. This fact alone raises doubt as to the extent to which the agreement is comprehensive and fair.

Thirdly, careful study of the DOP reveals that the Israeli army can re-enter cities it once withdrew from, anytime they feel Israeli interests are being threatened.

Finally, in the letters of exchange Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism and violence. This is in effect an admission of guilt that the PLO was a terrorist organization. However, the Palestinians and most of the world saw the PLO as a national liberation organization, the PLO's acts of resistance, which were responses to the Israeli occupation, were said to be acts of terror and violence. What a shameful way to describe the history of the Palestinian resistance movement. ■

Climbing the summit

THE GATHERING of Arab heads of state in Cairo is the first step in the improvement of inter-Arab relations. Since the last Gulf War, and for the first time, the Arab leaders will be sitting together to hammer out a common stand on peace prospects.

The meeting comes as a result of the elections of Mr Netanyahu. Of course, the new Israeli premier is known for his clear-cut ideas regarding peace, but then again, if politics is the art of the possible, then one has to wait and observe the formation of the Israeli cabinet, and after that, study carefully what Mr Netanyahu has to offer.

It is vital that we do not jump the gun and start issuing threats in all directions before we get a clearer picture. Each time we think that we have matured above the level of slogans, we are left back to the instruments that we are most familiar with, those which reject formats and accept contents.

For once, we hope that our realism and pragmatism will win the day, for our determination to pursue peace will provide us with the initiative which has always alluded our efforts through squandering our advantage and giving the diplomatic game away. It is no consolation to keep throwing the ball into other people's court, and hope for the best while awaiting their decision, but rather we should move forward with our own plans and be masters of our own decisions.

The aim of this Arab gathering should be to send a clear united message to Israel, that if the Madrid precedent is tampered with, Arabs will not pursue the peace option. But what other options would the Arab world follow? Logically, and as best, a state of no-war, no-peace will be recreated. Some in our world, may benefit from such a regrettable state of affairs, but what about those who will suffer from it?

Will the Cairo conference address those issues, and develop those mechanisms that ensure the solidarity of Arab countries, irrespective of the peace prospects? Will the issue of a comprehensive regional security, be on the agenda, and the notion of economic complementarity with its human dimension, be addressed?

These are important questions that are asked by every Arab, among them the haves and have-nots, the beneficiaries of peace, and the beneficiaries of cold war. Those of cold war are taken into consideration, the realistic prospects for the success of the Arab summit in conjuring a united stand with a united agenda are dismal. Divergent interests will only pave the grounds for more discord and disunity. The basic of calling for the conference, coupled with the speed in which responses came in the affirmative have materialized, must not submerge for the substance that should be discussed by Arab leaders.

It should be made clear from the outset, that the Arab world shows Mr Netanyahu that it is not prepared to be pushed around, according to the twists and turns of his own foreign policy, and peace negotiations. The Israeli premier will certainly take a note of that, and his response is most likely to come in due course, but we have to remind the Arab world at this point to that the conference promises Mr Netanyahu not to stray from the path of peace. The conference should not turn into a demonstration of Arab blocs against those countries that have reached a peace agreement with Israel. A clear message of pressure against Israel, should not be beyond an instrument of pressure against the Palestinians in the Arab world.

Reaching the summit of Arab inter-relations is a long way away, but let us not shirk from the first step. ■

Foreign Exchange	Rate
US\$ 100	7.7000
£ 100	1.0050
DM 100	0.6411
¥ 100	0.0061
₹ 100	0.1361
₹ 100	0.6495
₹ 100	0.6119
₹ 100	0.0457

Middle East Beat
by Khairi Janbe
Climbing the summit

THE GATHERING of Arab heads of state in Cairo is the first time since the last Gulf War, and the first time since the Arab League summit in 1991, that the Arab world has been able to stand on a common platform. The meeting was a result of the efforts of Mr. Netanyahu, who has been known for his intransigence, to bring about a breakthrough in the peace process. The meeting was a success, and it was a sign that the Arab world was moving forward. The meeting was a sign that the Arab world was moving forward. The meeting was a sign that the Arab world was moving forward.

Business scene

The Industrial Development Bank is giving 11 loans worth JD 1.572 million. These are for industrial and tourism projects. Seven of these loans have already been given, while the other four are new ones.

Japanese aid to Jordan up till 1995 reached \$500 million. This consisted of grants for debt rescheduling and loans. This forms about 40% of total foreign aid to Jordan.

The assets of Amman-Cairo Bank increased from JD 426 million to JD 600 million in 1995. This is an increase of 40.8%. The bank realized gross profits of JD 6.4 million, that is a 31% increase on 1994. Deposits also increased by 43% to JD 516 million compared to JD 360 million.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation signed an agreement for a pipeline irrigation project between the Hivirat region to Abu Al Zeighan in the Jordan Valley. The project costs JD 3.25 million. The Minister of Irrigation, Mr. Samir Qawar said the aim of the project is to carry 45 cubic meters of water from the King Talal Dam to the Jordan Valley annually.

Jordan has received 1.1 million tourists in 1995 according to Dr. Habis Samawi. This was more than 25% increase on 1994, according to a paper he presented to the last economic conference titled 'The Jordanian economy within its Regional and International Framework'. Dr. Samawi said that Jordan has a long way to go in building an economic infrastructure. The whole country has for instance, only 8586 hotel rooms. This is compared to 17254 in Syria, 62,200 in Israel, Egypt 65,131, Tunisia 160,000 and Turkey 171,450.

A delegation from the Ministry of Supply and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank are currently visiting Kazakhstan to buy wheat. It is understood that the delegation wants to buy up to a 100,000 tons of wheat. The bank is the main financier of the deal.

Foreign Exchange Wednesday, 12 JUNE		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.0850	1.0904
DM	0.4611	0.4634
FF	0.5589	0.5617
YEN	0.1361	0.1368
YEN (100)	0.6495	0.6527
DEL	0.4119	0.4140
LIT (100)	0.0457	0.0459

Talk of joint ventures takes top spot at Jordan-Japan seminar

By Mohammad Adawiya
Special to The Star

Joint ventures occupied much of the discussion at a gathering this week as Jordanian and Japanese businessmen held a seminar on the local investment climate on the occasion of Japan Week in Jordan.

"The right thing to do would be to go into joint ventures," Mr. Ali Dajani said without hesitation. The advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry believes the answer to the nation's massive trade imbalance with western countries is through establishing joint ventures with countries in the European Union (EU) and North America.

Speaking at the gathering entitled 'Investment Opportunities and the Role of the Private

Sector in Jordan," Mr. Dajani conveyed his beliefs that any talk of building up Jordan's manufacturing sector to compete in the EU is nothing less than a "dream." "It will be a long process if we are to tap the EU because they are self-sufficient," he told the roundtable.

"Our exports to the EU alone in 1995 totalled \$100 million while imports from the EU totalled \$1,600 million," Mr. Dajani explained. "The manufacturing sector will not be able to fix this imbalance alone," he continued.

The author of such works as "Jordan a Base for Regional Enterprises," which serves as an investment guide to Jordan, called for a "change in direction" to ease the trade imbalance with countries in the EU. Outlining four main sectors

of the Jordanian economy, Mr. Dajani did not share the Jordanian panelists' confidence in the manufacturing industry's ability alone to alleviate the trade imbalance. Beginning with the agricultural sector, Mr. Dajani explained that due to logistical problems of attaining water, this industry was limited in its ability to help with exports. Citing new tenders to build plants at the Dead Sea for the production of potassium phosphate and di-calcium phosphate, Mr. Dajani simply said that the mining and energy sectors were "taking care of itself."

What the veteran of Jordanian economic policy truly would like to see however are manufacturing joint ventures with European and American companies. "It's not fair to take the trade surpluses (from countries like India, Yemen and

Bangladesh) and give them to the EU and America," he said. "We currently have 100 successful joint ventures," Mr. Dajani noted naming Japan and India a two nations with which Jordan has joint venture undertakings.

"Firstly, joint ventures will help to find substitutes for imports," the Chamber advisor said explaining some of the beneficial ramifications of joint ventures for Jordan. Through the setting up of joint ventures, Mr. Dajani explains, Jordan may be able to find alternatives to products currently being imported and thus reducing Jordan's trade imbalance.

Joint ventures have a dual advantage however according to Mr. Dajani in that such ties with European companies will also allow Jordan to enter these

currently impenetrable markets and thus help "find new markets for exports."

An added benefit of joint ventures with European and American firms according to Mr. Dajani would be the introduction of well known brands on the Jordanian market. "We will have international brands on our shelves," Mr. Dajani commented as an additional selling point of joint ventures. It also believes encouraging joint venture projects will help in the transfer of technology from industrialized countries to developing ones such as Jordan. As Mr. Dajani simply puts it continuing on the present path, without joint ventures, "cannot achieve a trade balance in the foreseeable future."

New markets for a thriving economy

AMMAN (Star)—According to a recent study by a researcher in the Institute of Diplomacy, Jordan's economy witnessed a major breakthrough since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. Though Jordan has suffered extensively from the aftermath of the Gulf War, it was able to improve its economy by restoring its relations with the Gulf, once an open market for Jordanian exports, the study stated.

The study, titled 'Possible Effects of the Regional Developments on the Jordanian Trading Sector' by Ahmed Qassem Al Ahmed showed that the government strengthened the industrial sector over the past few years. It encouraged local savings and national and foreign investments and modernized laws.

The study said Jordan depended on foreign aid because of its insufficient local resources. This resulted in high indebtedness of \$11.7 billion but which was downsized to about \$6 billion by 1995 as the government continued with its economic restructuring program.

The study found that Jordan's external trade grew by 26.5% in 1995 while the trade deficit decreased by 1.1% compared to 1994. The

increasing exports were due to the private sector in its efforts to find new markets for Jordanian exports in Europe and Asia.

Other important markets which Jordan's exports aspire to reach is in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel. There have been proposals to set up a free trading zones between the three. Jordan signed an economic agreement with the Palestine National Authority which specified the size of trade, the goods allowed in Jordanian markets and vice versa.

The January 1994 agreement between Jordan and the PNA proposed to set up a free zone across the Jordan Valley. And though the agreement has 'slowed down' due to an 'incomplete peace process' the markets in Gaza and the West Bank are still expected to receive a great number of Jordanian commodities.

As to Jordanian imports in general, the study explained that they increased by 9.6% compared to a decline of 3.7% in 1994. One of the main reasons for the increase is the reduction of customs duty that was endorsed in 1994.

Fastlink Keeping up with demand

AMMAN (Star)—"More than 16,000 people in Amman, Madaba, Salt, Zarqa and Ajlun have subscribed to Fastlink within eight months," said Mithqal Asfour, general manager of the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS) Fastlink for mobile phones.

He explained during a press conference last week at the Marriott Hotel that there is a high demand for cellular phones that started in September 1995 when the company launched Jordan's first GSM Mobile Network. He added that the company is expanding the scope of its services to cope with the increasing number of subscribers.

Regarding future plans, especially after finishing their work in the first phase of coverage, Asfour said the second phase of the project will be completed by the end of October 1997 to expand the area of coverage. "This will be carried out by adding new cell sites in the greater Amman area which would allow Fastlink to continue to effectively absorb the congestion and call blocking in West Amman," he said.

The northern region and the



Jordan Valley will be included in the expanded coverage as of next July most users of this service in Amman are concentrated in the west causing a lot of pressure. Commenting on the cost of the service, Asfour said subscribers did not obtain their phones from the designated agents in Jordan. "We held a meeting with the Customs Dept., and the agents to solve the problem but to no avail," he said. The company, he added, suggests to cancel the customs on phones and instead impose a subscription fee paid monthly by the subscriber.

Tourism gets a boost through Japanese aid

THE FRUITS of the Japan Week in Jordan is beginning to bear fruit. Jordan and Japan have agreed on a joint project to develop tourism in this country at a cost of \$76 million. It will be financed by the Japanese government. The projects will be carried out throughout the country so that Jordan will receive the maximum number of tourists. It is hoped that Jordan will receive more than 2.4 million tourists by the year 2010. The point now is not only concentrate in such places and Ajlun but to focus on developing other tourists sits in the kingdom of which there is a great deal. But the \$76 million is only an estimate. The figure could reach to \$80 million. Japan has also donated 50 million yens to the Judo Club in Jordan.



US energy expert stresses importance of security

By Mohammad Adawiya
Special to The Star

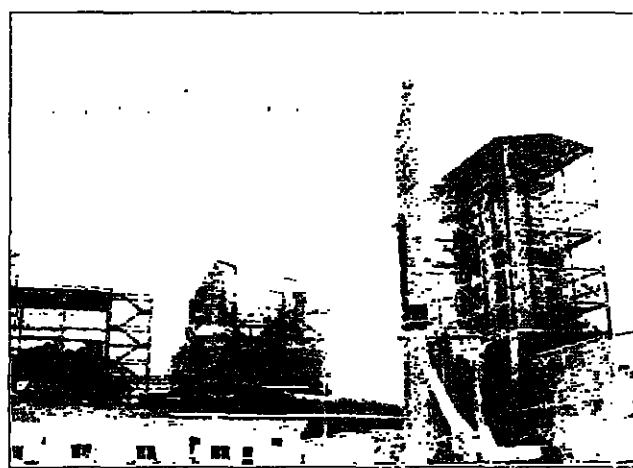
A UNITED STATES energy official warned last week that developing countries must guard, and be able to hedge against possible supply interruptions if they are to continue their process of modernization.

"Energy security remains a top priority," said Mr. Wayne Neill, an international economist specializing in the energy industry. Speaking at a conference entitled 'Regional Energy Challenges and Deregulation of the Electricity Market', Mr. Neill suggested diversification of energy sources as one way developing countries like Jordan can hedge against possible interruptions and continue along its path of modernization. "As countries continue to expand, develop and modernize, it will become increasingly important for them to diversify themselves from potential supply disruptions," commented Mr. Neill, who also serves as an energy advisor at the US Mission to the OECD in Paris.

Presenting the International Energy Agency's 'World Energy Outlook' to a roundtable at the Royal Scientific Society, Mr. Neill believes that energy demand is likely to continue its recent trend of steady growth increasing by one-third to one-half by the year 2010. Furthermore, he believes fossil fuels will account for close to 90 percent of global energy consumption by the same year.

With regards to other sources of energy, Mr. Neill is confident that oil will "remain the dominant fuel." "By 2010, the call on OPEC could be nearly 50 million barrels per day," the foreign service officer pointed out. Adding that this figure constitutes over half of the world's requirements and is a significant jump from the current 40 percent or 28 million barrels per day. Mr. Neill also predicted oil prices to stay relatively flat at roughly \$15 and \$25 and gas prices surging as a result of increases in gas use of three to six percent. On a regional note, the one time US economic counselor in Riyadh believes per capita electricity output will reach four megawatt hours (MWh) in 2010, doubling its 1993 figure of two MWh.

Mr. Neill's long and distinguished career both as an economist and dip-



lomat in the energy sector allows him to speak competently on a number of energy-related issues including the issue of deregulation which, together with electricity, proves to be a timely topic here in Jordan. His comments on the electricity market comes amidst important changes in Jordan's own energy policies. Last March, for example, the Jordanian government introduced legislation which would place approximately 200MW of electricity capacity in the hands of the private sector.

As Mr. Neill pointed out however, when such privatization occurs, certain issues must be focused on. Setting up a regulatory system dealing with attracting investment is crucial when liberalization of the market occurs. Legislation covering investor rights, fees, taxes and rates are all important topics which must be covered by the regulatory system.

Trade between neighboring countries is another important

issue for privatization according to Mr. Neill. Purchasing electricity from other countries and increasing trade links in general, as Mr. Neill suggests, may also allow Jordan to "reduce its traditional past dependence on Iraqi and Saudi oil sources."

Perhaps most important for any energy system however, is the need for security. The ability to provide electricity to customers on demand and without interruption is paramount to any service. In this regard, Mr. Neill believes "promoting competition between producers and strengthening the quality and range of services available to the consumer" will go a long way in providing this much needed security.

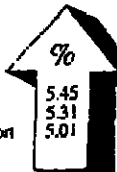
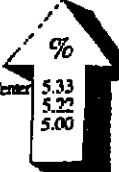

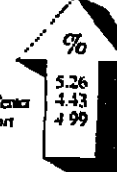

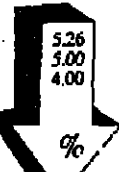

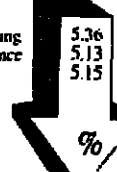
Shua'a signs deal to manage Princess Hotel

THE ARAB Public Investment Co. (Shua'a), has signed an agreement with InterContinental Hotels and Resorts to manage the Princess Hotel in Sophia. Shua'a has a majority shareholding in the company that runs the Princess Hotel. The rest of the shareholders are European and American. The Swiss-based Lowe Finance manages the holding company.

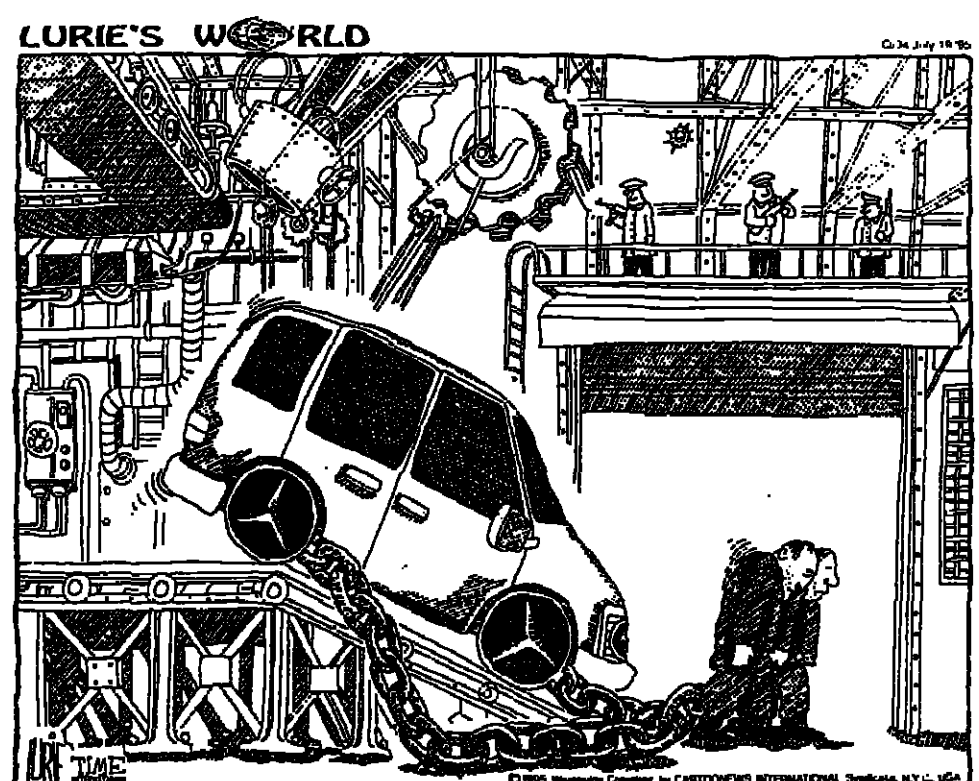
The hotel's new name Princess Sophia InterContinental lies in the commercial heart of the Spanish city of Barcelona. This is the fifth industrial-commercial city in Europe. Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia. Shua'a takes over management from the Spanish Hausa Company. Mr. Iyad Al Dawagee, the general manager of Shua'a said the deal with InterContinental Hotel will save \$10 million which can be used to improve the quality of the Princess Hotel. He said the new manager of the hotel was chosen because of his excellent expertise in marketing.

MARKET WATCH 8-11 JUNE

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	%		%		%		%
↑ Livestock & Poultry ↑ Modern Jordan Cables ↑ Jordan Tourism Transport	5.45 5.31 5.01	↑ Arab Pharm. Manufacture Center ↑ Zira for Investment ↑ International Trade	5.33 5.22 5.00	↑ None		↑ Tajana ↑ Arab Pharm. Manufacture Center ↑ Jordan Tourism Transport	5.26 4.43 4.99
	%		%		%		%
↓ Business Bank ↓ Dar Adhwa for Investment ↓ International Trade	5.00 4.55 3.23	↓ Arab Electrical Industry ↓ Tajana ↓ Arab International Hotels	5.26 5.00 4.00	↓ None		↓ Int'l Textile Manufacturing ↓ Al-Nir Al-Arabi Insurance ↓ Commercial Industry	5.36 5.13 5.15
General Price Pointer		144,560		144,680		144,110	
Trade Volume		717118		1427185		751248	
Stock Volume		586211		1016565		475475	
Highest Traded Stocks							
↑ Livestock & Poultry		114,374		↑ Car Union		195,782	
↑ Arab Pharm. Manufacture Center		88,020		↑ Arab Pharm.		88,020	

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949



First Chinese-made Mercedes van off the assembly line

China cracks down on Muslims

By Rone Tempest
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

BEIJING—In an effort to crush what it claims to be an outbreak of terrorism and separatism, the government has conducted a monthlong crackdown in China's predominantly Muslim far west, arresting several thousand people from the minority Uighur population and confiscating supplies of weapons and explosives.

According to official reports from the western frontier region of Xinjiang, terrorist acts have included the 2 March assassination of a pro-government religious leader and the 27 May attack on a

senior government official and his son. According to the reports, at least two police officers and 20 civilians have been killed in fighting.

Any attempt independently to gauge the extent of the anti-government activity in the remote territory, however, is difficult. The spring has always been a time for rebellion in the mineral-rich Central Asian region of desert and mountains, which has never been integrated fully into the Chinese heartland.

Dru Gladney, an expert at the University of Hawaii on Chinese Muslims, who make up about two percent of the population, said the crackdown represents an attempt to "keep a very tight lid" on potential rebel territories of Xin-

jiang and Tibet as China undergoes a leadership transition and takes control of the British territory of Hong Kong beginning next year.

Requests from foreign reporters to visit the Xinjiang region have been denied by local officials. Western diplomats traveling in the region reported no signs of terrorist activity or unusual security precautions by the government.

Overseas Uighur groups pushing for an independent state of East Turkistan have claimed that the number of arrests is even higher than those claimed by the government. "Estimates go as high as 10,000 arrested and 1,000 killed," said Anwar Yusuf Bidowlat, a Uighur activist living in the US.

But recent arrivals from Xinjiang interviewed in Beijing's Uighur minority neighborhoods said the government reports of separatist activities have been exaggerated in the official media as part of a propaganda campaign aimed at building nationalist sentiments.

What has changed this year is a deluge of reporting in the Chinese official media on the dangers of terrorism, separatism and "religious fanaticism" in Xinjiang and Tibet.

"Similar incidents have been happening in Xinjiang for the past 3-4 years," Gladney said. "Why does the government suddenly want to acknowledge them now? I think it is attempting to send a very strong pre-emptory message that such activity will not be tolerated."

In years of friction with the government, Xinjiang's Muslims—composed primarily of Uighur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Hui nationalities—have demanded more religious freedom and a greater share of the region's rich mineral deposits, including extensive oil reserves. Recently, they have protested the government's use of the region for nuclear

testing at its Lop Nor site and demanded more of top jobs in the energy industry.

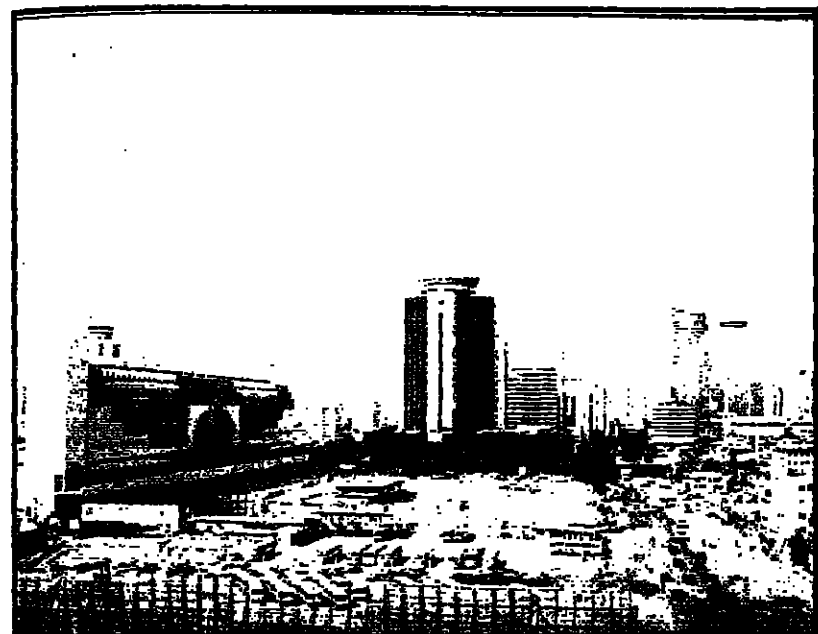
An editorial in the 30 May *Xinjiang Daily* called on the people to "build an anti-separatist Great Wall of Steel." The official newspaper cited five serious incidents of terrorism since February. In their ongoing crackdown, Xinjiang police claim to have arrested 2,773 suspected terrorists, seized 6,000 pounds of explosives and confiscated 31,000 rounds of ammunition.

These reports, part of a nationwide "Strike Hard" anti-crime campaign, appear to be aimed more at arousing nationalist sentiments of the country's majority Han Chinese population than they are at quelling dangerous threats to public order.

"Currently," said overseas Uighur activist Bidowlat, "one of the needs is to control a growing China and find an internal enemy."

About 10 million of Xinjiang's 14 million people are of Turkic stock and speak languages similar to those spoken in modern Turkey. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the liberation of southern Soviet republics, Xinjiang remains the last majority Muslim territory in Central Asia still under communism. Chinese officials in Beijing are wary of the intentions of nearby Islamic states.

"Nationalism and Han chauvinism," said exiled Chinese journalist Liu Binyan in a recent interview with the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, "are now the only effective instruments in the ideological arsenal of the Chinese Communist Party. Any disruption in the relationship with foreign countries or among ethnic minorities can be used to stir 'patriotic' sentiments of the people to support the Communist authorities."



Denmark seeks more mileage out of bicycling tradition

By Dean E. Murphy
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK—Riding a bicycle in the Danish capital during rush hour is not for the faint of heart.

Thousands of self-propelled commuters line up spoke-to-spoke at stoplights, first jockeying for position, then buzzing off like a swarm of bees when the signal turns green.

Rain or shine, the labyrinth of bike paths—some with double turn lanes to accommodate the crush of two-wheelers—is jammed with workers in crumpled suits, flapping skirts and the occasional spandex tights.

About one in three commuters pedals to the job, placing Copenhagen among a select group of European cities that have painstakingly broken the 20th century reliance on motorized urban transport.

But the Danish government says the achievement is not good enough. Under an ambitious national traffic plan, over the next 10 years thousands of cars will be relegated to the garage each day to help relieve crowded streets, improve the environment and get Danes in better physical shape.

The plan calls for four of every 100 miles now traveled in automobiles to be shifted to bicycles or foot.

The goal sounds modest, but in practical terms it is extraordinary. It equates to scrapping two out of three automobile trips under two miles, according to a study of two Danish cities.

Despite the remarkable biking tradition here—there are 4.2 million bicycles among 5.2 million people—there is concern that the target may be unrealistic, even for cycle-happy Danes.

"We have to change the conditions of bicycle riding and people's attitudes toward bicycles or the plan won't happen," said Puk Nilsson, a traffic spe-

cialist for the Danish Transportation Ministry. "Our research shows it is possible, but it requires a different way of thinking."

Denmark has long been ahead of the pack when it comes to riding bicycles for more than recreation.

There is a pedal-friendly flat terrain. Danes place a high value on ecology, and the bike has historic roots dating to the turn-of-the-century founding of the Danish Cyclist Federation, the oldest such advocacy organization in Europe.

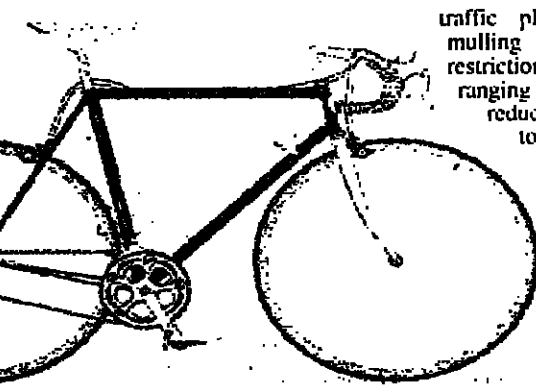
On a typical day, adults make about two million bicycle trips covering about 3.7 million miles, according to government statistics.

But after huge gains in the 1970s and '80s, bike riding has been stagnant the past decade while automobile traffic has increased by more than 40 percent. Many Danes, it seems, have had their fill of human-powered transport and are reluctant to further forgo the comforts and convenience of cars.

"It is a lot cheaper now to own a car than just 10 years ago, and the price of gasoline has not increased over that time," said Tina Reichstein of the cyclist federation. "We are a bit frustrated by it all."

A recent study by the Danish Road Directorate found that many would-be cyclists are turned off by the overwhelming presence of cars. Denmark has thousands of miles of bike lanes and "tracks"—paths separated from roads by curbs—but they are not maintained well enough or considered sufficiently safe, the study showed.

Indeed, bicycling in Denmark is a hazardous undertaking. A survey of accidents between 1986 and 1992



showed that, on a per-mile basis, bicyclists were four times more likely to die than motorists.

To overcome such concerns,

traffic planners are mulling over new restrictions on cars, ranging from reduced speeds to outright bans in city centers.

Official have also launched programs to make bicycles more convenient.

Fifty companies in Copenhagen, for example, were recently given bicycles to run errands so they would not have

UN yearbook essential for research

NEW YORK—The United Nations has just published its 48th yearbook for 1994.

The yearbook is on the work of the UN, designed for use by diplomats, officials and scholars, writers, journalists, teachers and students. It is indexed and contains detailed information on meetings and activities of UN bodies.

The 1,564-page volume consists of 54 chapters divided into six parts: political and security questions; regional questions; economic and social questions; legal questions; administrative and budgetary questions; and intergovernmental organizations related to the UN.

In its political and regional sections, the yearbook assesses complex international developments where the UN played a central role. It describes its efforts to safeguard international peace and security, including the activities of 17 peace-keeping operations worldwide, involving some 75,000 military and civilian personnel.

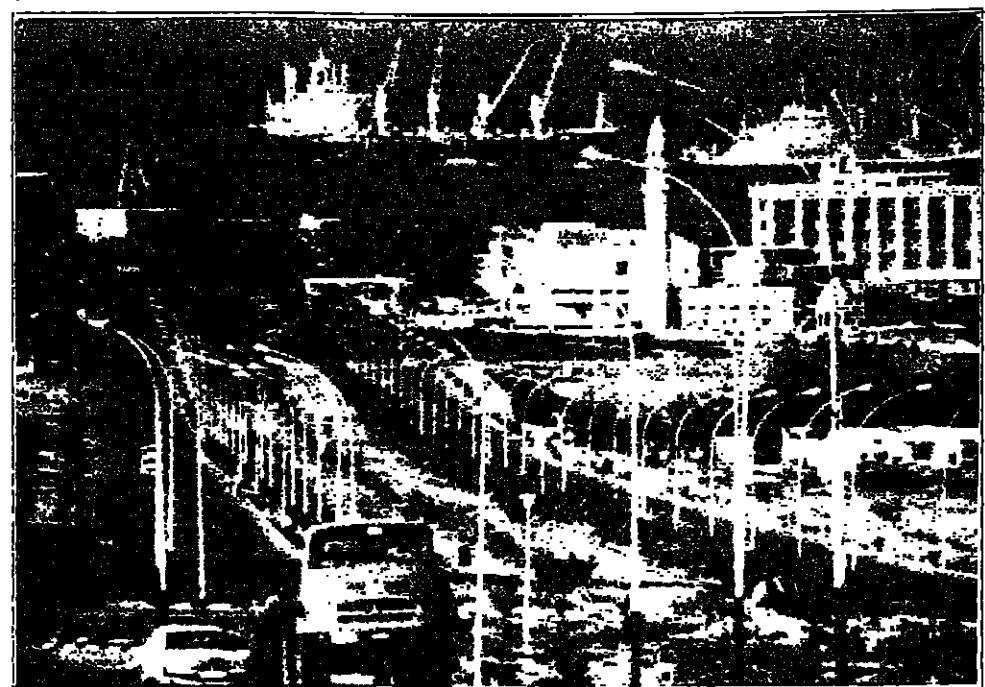
The yearbook also provides detailed accounts of the role played by the UN in the efforts to prevent or to settle internal conflicts. In 1994 in Africa, the capacity was severely strained as crises continued in Rwanda and Burundi, creating one of the continent's worst humanitarian situations, with hundreds of thousands dead and more than two million people fleeing widespread violence and other atrocities. The Commission on Human Rights condemned the violations of human rights in Rwanda. The Security Council established an International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and authorized the establishment of a temporary multinational operation

strictly for humanitarian purposes in that country.

The Yearbook chronicles positive developments in 1994 in which the United Nations was closely involved, including the first democratic elections in South Africa marking its transformation from the apartheid system of segregation into a united, democratic and non-racial society. As a result, the General Assembly removed the question of apartheid from its agenda, while the Security Council terminated the arms embargo and other measures which had been imposed with the aim of eliminating apartheid.

The Yearbook recounts the participation of the UN in the peace process in the Middle East, which was significantly advanced with the signing of the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on 4 May 1994, and of the Jordan-Israel Treaty of Peace, signed on 26 October 1994. A United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories was appointed to serve as a focal point for expanding the Organization's assistance to the Palestinian people. The Yearbook also reviews developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia, where the United Nations and the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia continued to seek a stable cease-fire, facilitate negotiations, deliver humanitarian assistance and prevent widespread violations of international humanitarian law.

Healthy cities in Jordan rejuvenate



By Eric Giroult

UNDER JORDAN'S National Sustainable Development Policy, three cities—Amman, Irbid and Zarqa—have decided to start Healthy Cities projects. The main objective is to implement at municipal level the chapter in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development relating to the protection and promotion of human health. The main problems faced by Jordan at both the national and the city level are the scarcity of fresh water and other natural resources, and the rapid population growth.

Amman is the country's fastest growing city and its only harbor. The harbor activity has grown tremendously owing to increasing exports of minerals and fertilizers. Part of this fertilizer industry is located in Amman and is the source of significant air pollution. There has been a huge increase in transit traffic across Jordan, through the port, towards the countries of the Gulf and especially Iraq. In addition, Amman is now attracting international tourism, so the 27 kilometers-long seashore is the scene of both industries and tourist developments.

The waters of the Gulf of Aqaba do not yield large quantities of fish or seafood, but there are remarkable coral reefs where rare species of sea creatures live. Since freshwater resources are so limited, under-ground water from central Jordan is supplied to the city through long-distance aqueducts, but increasing demand for water has triggered studies into the possibility of building a sea-water desalination plant. Using tankers to import fresh water is another possibility but has not yet been seriously considered. Despite the scarcity of water resources 97% of the population has access to safe drinking-water, although the per capita consumption is limited to 70 litres per day through a rationing system.

Amman does not yet have an adequate sewage disposal system. Even if the sewer network is extended but no treatment plant is built, the quality of seawater may soon become incompatible with tourist development and the survival of coral reefs. To overcome this problem it is planned to design the future sewer network to include recycling of treated sewage to irrigate vegetable gardens in the suburbs. At present, all solid wastes collected in the city are dumped at a site in the desert: a safe disposal site is envisaged for hazardous wastes which at present are not separated from regular wastes.

There is a significant air pollution problem in Amman, mainly from phosphate dust. Besides its impact on the human respiratory system, the fallout of air pollutants makes the seawater turbid and poses a further threat to coral reef survival.

Considering the many environmental challenges that Amman has to face, its Healthy City Action Plan is mainly directed towards preventing environmental health risks. This is complemented by other actions designed to ensure that the entire population has access to all the components of primary health care, while health education and health promotion activities are designed mainly for women and school children.

Irbid, a middle-sized city, shares the same environmental, social and epidemiological problems as the country's other urban areas. These include the impact of refugee camps, which for many have become a long-term home. It is therefore necessary to change the refugee camps into regular urban neighborhoods. Jordan's housing authority has drawn up three main criteria for assessing slum conditions: the first is based on overcrowding, the second on

the availability of piped water and hygienic latrines, and the third on the quality of roofing—whether it keeps out rain-water and provides enough thermal insulation. When those criteria were applied in a national survey, they showed that 80% of Jordan's slums are located in refugee camps.

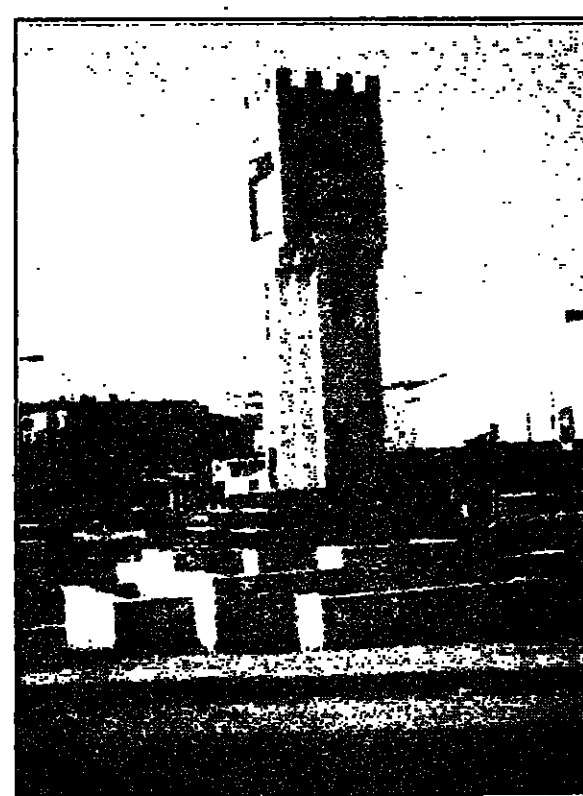
Irbid's Healthy City Action Plan therefore includes the rehabilitation of refugee camps, but also total coverage of the population with the eight components of primary health care, and intensification of health education and health promotion activities aimed at women and schoolchildren.

Zarqa is a relatively remote part of the Amman metropolitan area, where several hazardous industries are located, as well as a gigantic sewage treatment plant serving the two million metropolitan residents. As a result of toxic chemicals emitted from industrial sources, there have been several cases of human poisoning, and there is an urgent public health need to abate industrial emissions.

The Zarqa River drains most of the metropolitan area and, after receiving the effluent from the huge sewage treatment plant, carries it to the King Talal reservoir, which feeds agricultural irrigation schemes in the Jordan valley. If the present phytotoxic content of the river increases, the reservoir's water quality may become incompatible with agricultural needs. This is yet another reason for controlling toxic chemical emissions, even though industrial development is vital to provide jobs for the increasing population.

Zarqa's Healthy City Action Plan gives top priority to limiting the impact of toxic chemicals on health and the environment. This entails strengthening the occupational health services, monitoring industrial liquid or gaseous emissions, and also encouraging the industries responsible for pollution to invest in abatement devices. Other activities are planned to achieve full coverage by primary health care services, to step up health education and to ensure that women, schoolchildren and industrial workers benefit from health promotion activities.

World Health



'Load,' Metallica's new album, is a major disaster

By J.D. Considine
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

THIS SHOULD be Metallica's summer. Five years after the release of the monstrously popular "Metallica" (nine million units sold and still in the Billboard Top 100), the band is finally leaping back into the fray.

Besides a new album, "Load" (Elektra 61923, which just arrived in stores), Metallica will headline this year's Lollapalooza tour, making it the first metal act to headline the traditionally alterna-rocking festival. The tour ought to be a major breakthrough for the band.

Too bad "Load" is a major disaster. It isn't that the band

has finally gone pop, as some of the hardcore feared when "Metallica" hit the streets, or that the newly short quartet has opted for an alternative-friendly sound to go with its no-more-long-hair look. "Load" is a typical metal album in almost every way—but that's the problem. Because the one thing Metallica has never been is a typical metal band.

That was what made Metallica matter in the first place. Salvaging the basic elements of thrash from the hyperspeed sludge served up by bands like Venom and Tracior, Metallica forged an entirely new approach, one that maintained the visceral intensity of thrash's harder-faster aesthetic while leaving room for melodic

ambition and compositional complexity. At its best, Metallica's music delivers a depth, resonance and beauty rarely found in hard rock.

Unfortunately, each of those qualities is in short supply on "Load." Instead, what we get are bland riffs, bombast and—God help us—boogie tunes.

This is not a band that boogies.

Nonetheless, it does go through the motions, offering slide guitar, reformed John Lee Hooker licks, a shuffling backbeat—the works. James Hetfield even tries to sound bluesy on "2X4," going for a "down-home" feel through lyrics like "I'm a gonna make you, shake, take you..." (Oooh, James! Get down with your bad self!) Trouble is, there's no

bounce to the band's boogie, and without any genuine locomotion, these tunes end up going nowhere. So "2X4" sounds like warmed-over Foghat, while "Poor Twisted Me" comes on like an even more robotic version of ZZ Top's space-age stomp. And "Ronnie" is meant as a tribute to Lynnyrd Skynyrd's Van Zant. Skynyrd fans have cause to feel insulted.

Not everything on "Load" is quite so far off the mark. "King Nothing" boasts a strong, sneering chorus (though the intro is awfully reminiscent of "Enter Sandman"), and there's a delicious bit of drum overdrive from Lars Ulrich that lifts "The House That Jack Built" clean off its foundations. "Until It Sleeps" is catchy without

being condescending, and "Wasting My Hate" is magnificent from start to finish, blending the breathless urgency of the band's "Ride the Lightning" period with the compositional ambition of its last two albums. Clearly, the band can still deliver.

But four songs out of 14 is hardly a winning average. Whether it's the sappy sentimentality of "Mama Said" (and yes, that is pedal steel you hear on the chorus), the blustering inanity of "Ain't My Bitch" or the instrumental self-indulgence of "The Outlaw Torn" (10 minutes on one riff—what is this, Iron Butterfly?), there's something here to disappoint everyone.

If "Load" truly is the album of the summer, fall just can't get here fast enough.

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation

presents

THE CONCERT BAND OF THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Barbara Johnson, conductor

in

Concert

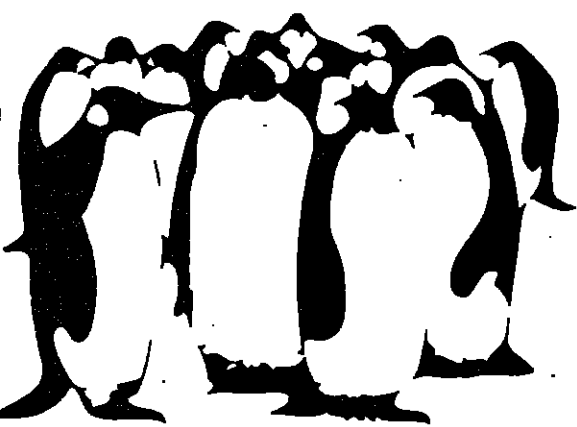


Wednesday 19 June, 1996- 8:00 p.m.
College De La Salle

Ticket price: JD 5

Tickets available at:
- Ahlahia Abela Superstore, tel. 688481
- Alisar Flowers, tel. 827695
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Caffé Moka, tel. 856285
- Characters, tel. 07-927106
- Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
- Music Box, tel. 815745
- Romero, tel. 644227
- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

AROUND TOWN



Amman Marriott Hotel donates to charity

As a contribution towards charity in Jordan, the Amman Marriott Hotel, in cooperation with the Bisharat Golf Club, donated JD 926 to the Salt Institute for the Deaf. On behalf of the Marriott, Mr Richard Lyon, presented the cheque to Brother Andrew. In attendance was Mr Paul David, the secretary of the Golf Committee.



Highs and lows of photography stir emotions

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

Trying to capture an image of street life anywhere in the world is unusually hard. A painter can draw an image and then manipulate it to create the composition he or she wants, but a photographer has to wait and wait for the perfect shot, and it doesn't always happen. A photographer cannot ask people to move in the directions they do to enhance an image, create a composition or set a contrast. A photographer also has to work in the open and ask permission of people to photograph them, and is usually not very welcomed.

George Vass is no different. He tried to capture a lapse of life in Jordan and Jerusalem. Under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdallah and Princess Rania Al Abdallah an exhibition of Vass's photographs was opened at the American Center on 5 June. The exhibition consists of 37 photographs around Jordan and Jerusalem, and 7 sky shots.

All in Black and White, an art which is considered far more attractive and superior to color photography, the images are excellent. The fine printing and presentation conveys the quality, black and white photographs serve in portraying the charm of creating enchanted scenes.

Images of life at its most basic form, the pictures bring out details that are usually ignored by people seeing them everyday as they go to work. Not intended to stir any cultural questions, the works move away from the typical Black and White pictures shot in the Arab world which are meant to reflect either abstract representation or arouse emotions.



The works do not portray the poor or the rich, the tormented or the happy. They simply serve to stop time, in a freeze frame.

The sky shots are no less fascinating. Vass has conquered the skies, breaking a limit, that was for long a dream of photographers: To take a picture of space that is devoid of any movement to add to the scale.

Vass has found the scale in the sky itself. He takes pictures of

clouds that have irregular, but not chaotic or stacked, shapes. Using fine but visible grain, cold toning, and sharp focusing, the prints are more like abstract art representations.

A holder of a Master's Degree in Photography, from the Pratt Institute in New York, Vass is an acclaimed American/Cypriot photographer. His last exhibition in New York, "Interrupted Cadence," was on The New York Times list of recommended exhibitions for six weeks. Although the works from "Interrupted Cadence" were not displayed in Jordan, there is no reason to doubt that the current works are not as good, if not better.

It is commonly known that a stranger photographs any country better than his own. He is used to the sights in his country so much that he learns to pass them by. But when one travels to another country, he becomes curious and stirred by every scene. Vass proves it. The exhibition will run until June 23.

Noelle Shawa goes solo

The acclaimed Arab-American artist, Noelle Shawa will open her third solo fine arts exhibition, "What About Figures," at Concept for Consultancy on Sunday, 16 June at 6:00 pm. Invitations are open to the public.



The exhibition runs until 30 June from 9 am to 9 pm. Fridays from 1 to 9 pm.

It consists of about 50 paintings and 60 drawings, sketches and prints. Mostly figurative, the works are considered unique. The color sophistication and the refined perfectionist composition stand as a statue to the achievement of a young Arab artist, especially in a field rarely attempted in the Arab World.

Noelle was born in Seattle, Washington. Keen on painting and drawing since her childhood, she studied at Yarmouk University earning a BA in Fine Arts. Her works have been on display in Jordan for the last seven years. Her paintings are displayed in hotels, banks, and galleries in the Arab world and Europe. This will be her last exhibition in Jordan as she's leaving to the United States to continue her career as a painter.

NIVEA Competition winner strikes it lucky for the second time!

Beating odds of almost 250 million to one, Murshid Moosa Al Zadjali's name was drawn out of the hat to reach the finals in two consecutive NIVEA Cares competitions in the Middle East.

The eight-year-old Omani had his name drawn to reach the finals in the NIVEA Cares For You Competition, and jetted into Dubai with his parents to spend a fun-filled, treasure-seeking weekend at the Forte Grand Jumeira Beach Hotel, courtesy of Beiersdorf AG.

Five other finalists and their parents from Dubai, Sharjah, Qatar and Bahrain also joined Murshid at the Forte Grand Jumeira Beach, and the fun started shortly after breakfast when two pirates ushered them onto the beach for "On the Trail for Gold" treasure hunt. Armed with maps, NIVEA "booby" bags and a tent for shelter, the contestants followed directions on their maps, collecting NIVEA products en route to finding the area marked X. Frantic digging by excited youngsters produced clouds of sand, and finally, a treasure chest each.

Then followed a mad dash back by the finalists to a head table where Mr Herbert Wietelmann, marketing director of Business Development for Cosmed International Middle East-West Asia, was waiting to announce the prizes for each winner.

With great anticipation, the treasure chests were opened to discover what treasure each person had discovered. Five excited youngsters won a 10g gold ingot each, and the first prize of 50g of gold went to Murshid from Oman.

Mr Wietelmann said: "Last year Murshid won our NIVEA Cares for the Environment Competition, winning himself a Casio Keyboard. He is obviously a very lucky young man, as the chance, statistically, of winning two independent competitions in a row is very remote. We congratulate him on his lucky win this year, too."

The NIVEA Cares For You Competition was extremely well received in all the countries it was staged, attracting more than 26,000 entries. Explaining the rationale behind the NIVEA Cares For You competition, Mr Wietelmann said that excitement, stimulation and fun for young people was the chief aim, and judging by the response from an enthusiastic younger generation, the competition was a great success.

The Japanese Kimono

A style of cultural identity

By Oroub Al Abed
Special to The Star

The Japan Week in Jordan is a unique opportunity for both Jordanian and Japanese public to learn about each other's cultures. Due to the special relations between the Imperial House of Japan and the Hashemite House of Jordan, the two countries have cooperated in many fields over the past 40 years. In 1995, Japanese and Jordanian relations were formally consolidated through the Tokyo Declaration. It came into being as a direct result of the successful Japan Week in Japan, under the patronage of HH Crown Prince Naruhito and HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

The fashion show that took place last Sunday at the InterContinental Hotel—matinee and soiree—was simply, exotic. The slender Japanese girls wearing their traditional Kimono streamed one after the other on-stage to the soft Japanese music. With harmonic movements, and an innocent Asian face, each made the catwalk in a dress ornamented with colorful flowers, trees or birds. There were 13 Japanese models, two male models, and three Japanese children wearing the most spectacular attire. In

an attempt to show cooperation between the two countries even in this field, four Jordanian young girls and one male participated in the fashion show.

The show began by a parade of two models wearing the typical kimono made of pure silk in light colors. This gave a serene atmosphere to the show. "The light colors are usually for married women," said the host of the show Madame Doymyou, who is also a director of a costume school in Japan. "Vivacious and bright colors are for the young," she added.

Yokata, a cotton-made kimono for everyday work, were shown by two Jordanian models. It represented simplicity but it was complex in its art patterns.

Others adapted kimonos into modern clothes. The design was originally made by students from one of the universities in Japan. Kimono



making the knot on the back of the body. It is usually in the shape of a butterfly or a ribbon.

During the show the audience was given a glimpse of the kimono celebrations that are held in Japan. Three cute children marched on-stage wearing the Komar of bright colored kimonos called the Kromomisode celebrations.

There is also the graduation kimonos having bright striking color combinations of red and green or dark red and blue worn by young girls.

"At the graduation ceremony, the hair is preferably spread over the back, otherwise the common style is the Chignon to show the major element of beauty, the neck," commented Madame Doymyou.

The finale of the show was a spectacular Japanese wedding that was emulated in front of the audience. The bride and groom, in a step by step fashion, incorporated all the customs and traditions of the wedding ceremony.

The bride was wearing a white heavy kimono with a thick 19th century bustle worn on the back. "It is a decorative wedding dress," Submissively holding her hands in front of her and having her feet pointed inwards, she ended the show.

nos were made into jackets and pants and dyed in Indiko—a dark green and blue colors.

Four models walked on-stage wearing jet black kimono with thick Obie (belts). They unfasted their belts to reveal one of the most extravagant and colorful flowers.

As the Obie is an important element in their traditional kimonos, a special demonstration was performed by a professional Japanese lady showing the ritual of

Czech beauty stunned audience

AMMAN (Star)—The Miss Czech Republic for this year, Petra Minarova and her first runner up Iva Kopelkova talked, at a press conference held last week at the Forte Grand, about their experiences in the beauty contests. The director of the Czech Airlines, Frantisek Havrilla, said the aim of the visit is to introduce an important side of Czech culture to Jordanians. "Since we can't bring beautiful natural scenes from the Czech Republic, we invite our beauty queens to reflect the beauty we have," he added.

This visit seeks to promote tourism in both countries. Answering questions about

how such a visit might have a positive effects on Jordan, Havrilla said "Through Petra Minarova, Jordan's most renowned Petra will be promoted. They will be asked about Jordan when going back."

The two beauties described how their lives had changed after being elected for the 1996 Beauty Contest. Minarova, who is 18 years old, is spending her time in modeling and fashion shows. "My intention is to become an artist designer," she said.

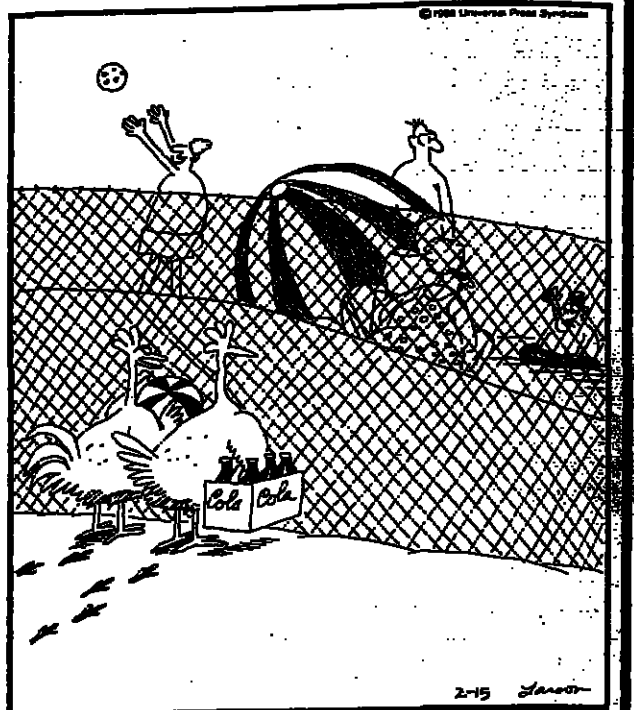
Kopelkova, who is 19 years old, explained how her privacy has been disrupted since she was elected. "I must participate

in social and cultural events and I don't have time for myself anymore," she said. Some beauty queens are interested in becoming movie stars. The case is the same for Minarova who is thinking seriously of acting in a fairy tale. Kopelkova on the other hand, will be acting soon on-stage. She was nominated to the Beauty contest of Miss Europe in next August.

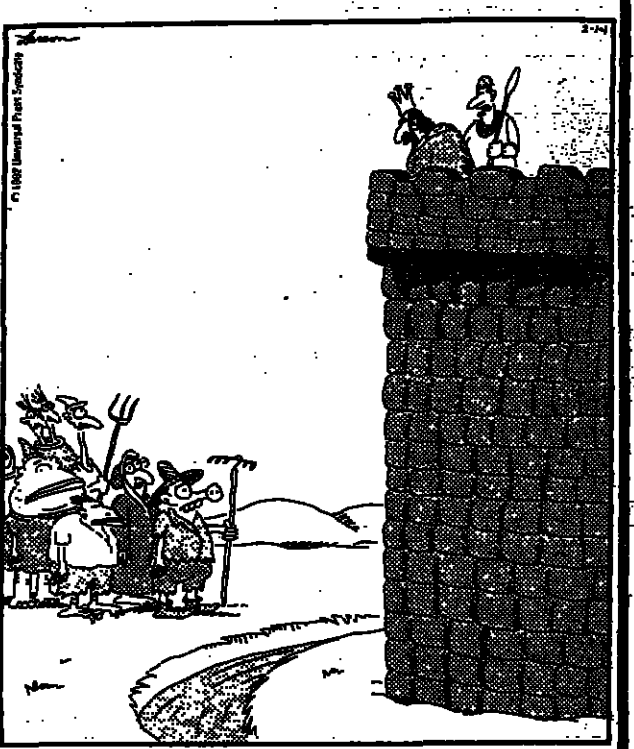


THE FAR SIDE

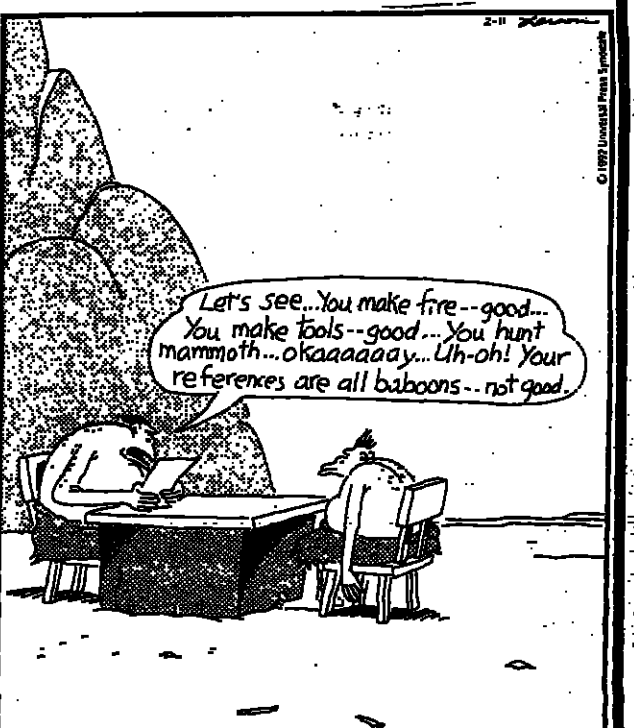
By GARY LARSON



"Well, wouldn't you know it — we've come all this way to our favorite beach and someone's strung chicken wire around it."



"Those, sire, are the uncommon folk."



Primitive resumes



AGENDA

Exhibitions
■ Contemporary Arab Artists, at Darat al Funun, contastions till 30 June
■ The works of Rafic majzoub, at The French Cultural Center, continues till 27 June

Films
■ Atout de Mimut, at The French Cultural Center, Monday 17 June at 8 pm.
■ Farinelli, at The French Cultural Center, Wednesday 19 June at 8 pm.
■ Stagecoach, at American Center, Thursday 13 June at 5 pm.

■ Marcel Duchano: A game of Chess, at Darat al Funun, Thursday 13 June at 6 pm.

Jazz Festival
■ Performances will take place at the Roman Amphitheater in Amman at 9:30 pm
—Nathalie Lories Trio and Sciavis/Pifarely Acoustic Quartet, Thursday 13 June.
—Rabih Abou Khalil Quintet, Friday 14 June.
—Grazer Saxophone Quartet, Saturday 15 June.
—Cynthia MacPherson Quintet, Sunday 16 June.

OVERHEARD AT TURINO.

The Turino Restaurant New Menu???

The feature editor of this column has learned that Turino has overhauled its menu to what it calls the Great New Menu of Turino?

It is simply a menu set out in a new style by adding a few Oriental dishes, new flavours and other splashes of gastronomy flair. The menu is called "Great" because of its expected production in style and colour of material that will probably make it one of the most unusual menu formats.

The food is far more important and the stress Turino puts on its quality of ingredients is already paying off especially with the foreign community. THIS MONTH'S MOTTO FOR TURINO RESTAURANT IS: FOOD, FUN AND GASTRONOMY.

FOR THE VISITOR TO JORDAN, TURINO RESTAURANT IS TUCKED AROUND THE MAIN SQUARE OF SWEIFEYEH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF 6TH CIRCLE.

As a reader of this column of "The Star" request a bottle or at least a glass, of wine if you are a group of four. You'll definitely get away with it, no matter how small your meal!!

The Turino Restaurant has now become famous for its Sizzling Fillet and Exotic Sauces. THE NEW ADDITION IS THE SAUTEE CHICKEN ON THE GRILLER SERVED WITH ORIENTAL RICE AND FRESH HERBS.

TURINO guarantees that the chef uses the highest quality ingredients absolutely for all menu items.

The important point to mention here is the all-inclusive prices for our guests this Summer.

PASTA CARNIVAL JD 10
SKEWER LINE JD 17
SEAFOOD & SHRIMP JD 13
All include taxes and service

Call Turino for reservation on 863944 extn 31. You might even get free transport if you are a large party.

Try Turino. Do call. It really is worth it.

Old habits (such as newspapers) die hard

Swedes taking a leisurely approach to the Internet

By Miki Dedijer

THE OTHER DAY insurance broker Claes Akerlund's car refused to start. After rushing his 2-year-old son to the day care center, Claes arranged for a ride to his office in central Stockholm, Sweden, within an hour.

"So I made myself some coffee, turned on my computer, hooked up to a database and called the office to say I'd work from home," explains Claes. "I literally didn't lose a second. A year or more ago it would have been excruciatingly irritating, I would have felt I had wasted the entire morning."

Akerlund, 43, and his six-member household typifies the growing number of Swedes who save time and trouble by using computers to send, receive and search for information. Yet to most people in the largest Scandinavian country, electronic mail and web sites are largely unexplored novelties.

Whereas 94 percent of the adult Swedish population knows about the Internet, according to the research-based consulting group Kairos Future, only 5 percent has actually used it. Internet subscriptions have more than doubled over the past year, yet radio, TV, and newspapers still prevail as the main ingredients in the Swede's information diet.

Raising four children while working full-time, Claes Akerlund and his wife Ditte have no time to digest information that isn't pertinent to their lives. "I throw a glance at the morning news on TV, listen to the radio in midday, and save the newspaper for later in the week," says Claes, who recently

spiced that diet with a sprinkling of database searches.

Six months ago, he began subscribing to MIS, a communications service providing insurance brokers with the latest documents, premiums, and legislation. The system had been around for a while but insurers were initially reluctant to join in. Then a major player broke the ice

and flooded the system with information, forcing competitors to go with the flow. Today, it's an indispensable working tool for Claes and his colleagues.

"I achieve a lot more during a working day than I used to. I get information faster than before, and find new customers more rapidly. Before I had to get all information straight from the insurance company, using the phone or snail mail. Now I find all I need on the screen. And that results in a lot of time saved."

Ditte Akerlund, a project manager at the headquarters of Swedish National Television, uses her computer mainly for typing and sending internal mail. "Internet doesn't affect my work one way or another," she says. "I'm too stressed to surf on the net or zap between TV channels. Instead I decide what I want to know or see. If there's an interest-

ing TV program at 9:30 in the evening, I won't turn on the TV until it starts."

At work Ditte relies heavily on written reports from her co-workers and the economic, judicial and administrative expertise available in her offices. "I can avoid leafing through thick reports or going through other time-consuming searches by being more precise in the way I ask colleagues for information," she says.

One reason that Ditte finds databases less useful than her husband is that, surprisingly, Swedish Television didn't make computers standard until a few years ago. Now, however, the corporate database system is rapidly swelling with information. It has actually grown so fast that Ditte now heads a corporate study on the efficiency and cost of helping employees set up home offices.

Twice a week Ditte herself leaves work early to pick her children up from schools and day-care centers. She spends a few hours in the evenings or on weekends making up for lost time on the home computer. Despite recent changes, however, she still can't access the company database from home. The infrastructure is in place, but the users are not.

In fact, Claes and Ditte have yet to use electronic mail for business communication. "We're still very restrictive in how we use electronic mail to

exchange information," says Claes, adding that, "We're terribly uncertain whether customers actually read their e-mail or even know how to handle an electronic message. We prefer not to take that risk. And I think that's typical of businessmen. They are aware of

the potential of e-mail, but they still prefer more traditional means" such as the fax and conventional mail (referred to jokingly as "snail mail").

"The Internet is mostly used for leisure," explains Niklas Angmyr at consulting firm Kairos Future. "It seems as if users make their initial contact with the

electronic highway through work, but they prefer to explore the Internet at home."

Twelve-year-old Kim Akerlund crouches over the keyboard of her father's home computer every day, searching the Net for all kinds of information, including facts to complete a recent school assignment on Islam. She even helped her busy parents rent a cottage with six beds for the summer holiday on the island of Gotland.

"I never thought we'd find that kind of information on the Net, but it took less than a day," says Ditte. "We didn't have to spend time talking to travel agents and read through brochures. In that way the Internet is of very concrete, personal use." ☐

MIKI DEDIJER IS A FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST BASED IN STOCKHOLM.



Obstacles to Egypt's cyber-revolution are falling

The state lets go

By Mirette Mabrouk

ALIA AND MARWA Bayoumi are delighted by the Internet, which has allowed the two graduate students at the American University in Cairo to maintain contact with their friends overseas. Their father, a businessman, is less thrilled.

"What exactly am I supposed to do with the Internet?" asks Sayed Bayoumi. "It is an amusing toy, and the sheer amount of information is fascinating, but I can't actually conduct business on it."

He isn't the only Egyptian who feels that way. Most agree that access to the Internet is a good thing. But they aren't sure how to make the most of this dramatic new information technology. The Internet has yet to work its way into Egypt's corporate culture. Only 300 people have signed up for a course provided by RITSEC, a division of the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Centre.

"Frankly, I had expected more," says Tarek Kamel, RITSEC's director of communications. Part of the problem lies in getting access. Though the government offered a free service to business in 1994, so many companies signed up that it has become seriously congested during peak business hours.

Recently, however, the government opened up its Internet node to private service providers, drawing a collective sigh of relief from terminals around the country. With this access, the private firms are able to charge much more reasonable prices than before. The government's decision, which is surprising in the light of efforts by developed countries to regulate the Internet, has been welcomed. "There is a wealth of information on the Internet," says Hisham Fahmy, deputy director of the Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies. "Economic papers. Reports. It is wonderful what you can have access to."

Fahmy does caution that the Internet can be very slow. "You expect things to just pop up on your screen, but it can take such a long time to ac-

cess what you are looking for."

While the problems with access seem to be waning, there are other things shackling Egypt's budding information society. The most serious is infrastructure. While Egypt's telephone system is adequate for its present needs, it will not be able to cope with the demands of a full-fledged Internet system will place upon it. In a developing country, basic needs are likely to take priority over what is still regarded as a hobby for computer aficionados.

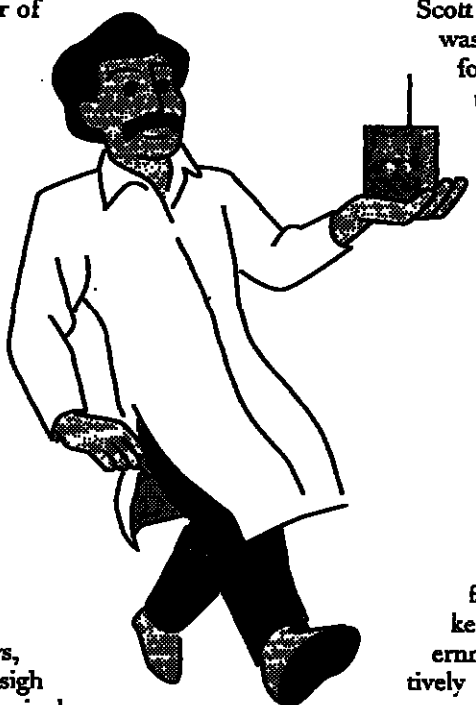
Furthermore, there aren't enough personal computers (PCs) to go round. The country currently imports around 30,000 PCs a year, hardly enough to sustain an electronic revolution. Two Egyptian manufacturing companies are exploring the possibility of producing computers for the domestic market, but it is still unclear whether there is enough local demand to support such a venture.

Still, Egypt is an expanding market. A year ago, Sun Microsystems Chairman Scott McNealy, said it was the world's fourth most dynamic market in terms of Internet growth. McNealy's figures are difficult to substantiate, but Mohamed El Nawawy, director of business development at In touch Communications, agrees that Egypt is a fast growing market. That the government has effectively terminated its near monopoly in this market delights him. "I think it is wonderful," he says. "The government intends to take a flat fee from providers and supply free Internet access to schools and universities. Then these tens of thousands of students graduate and want to have this access and they become my public. It works out well for everyone."

Nawawy describes the Internet as a "bottom-up" phenomenon. Regardless of what governments may hope and think, it defies central decision making. It is completely customer driven; what the public wants, the public gets. And of course, more information seldom hurts democracy.

While Egypt may rank low at present on indexes measuring the use of information technology, the Egyptian government is providing free access and training to both individuals and corporations. It is only a matter of time before Egyptian surfers catch up to their counterparts abroad. ☐

MIRETTE MABROUK IS A SENIOR EDITOR FOR THE CAIRO-BASED NEWS-MAGAZINE *Business Today*.



Generations differ over the proper use of a mouse

Efficiency and fun compete for leadership of Brazil's revolution

By Carlos Castilho

EFFICIENCY IS THE reason given by 90 percent of the top executives in Brazilian corporations for jumping onto the information technology bandwagon. But the computer revolution in the country is really being led by teenagers looking for fun.

Brazil has much in common with other countries that are stepping into the "Cyber Age." Gray-haired executives and noisy adolescents fight for the controls—or the mouse—that steer this revolution, which is propelled by reasons as different as efficiency and fun. What makes Brazil special is the speed of the process. A decade ago, the country had no more than 300,000 computers. Today it has approximately 1.7 million. In 1986, domestic personal computers (PCs) were, in statistical terms, almost negligible. Now 450,000 are installed in Brazilian homes.

Lawyer Marcilio Krieger, 57, chief legal advisor of the Santa Catarina State Bank, is one of the few Brazilians who operates two computers. The father of two teenagers, Krieger has one PC in his office and another at his house. The first one is used once in a while, but the PC at home is always in the eye of a domestic storm created by his 15-year-old son Antonio and 14-year-old daughter Olga. At the bank Krieger is in command, but at home he gets orders from Antonio who knows more about PC operation than his father even though he has never attended a computer class.

Krieger is not the only one who is a newcomer to the computer age. His wife, an English teacher, writes on an old-style Remington typewriter and doesn't dare to touch the PC's keyboard. Says Krieger, "I entered the computer age in the late 1980s by the backdoor. The state company I was working with had commissioned the acquisition of a main frame computer, but the board of directors, who hadn't the slightest idea about computers, suspected that the technical experts were trying to cheat them. So they asked me to investigate and write a text with the computer ABC, a kind of manual for dummies so they could speak the same language of the experts. We never found if they were cheating or not, but I became a computer novice."

In 1992, he joined the staff of the Santa Catarina State Bank. One of his initial suggestions was to replace typewriters with computer terminals in the legal department. The equipment was installed in a matter of days, but staff members ignored it for months. At that time Krieger's electronic expertise was limited, and he was unable to convince his subordinates they would benefit from the change. Late one Friday afternoon, after all staff had left, he took all typewriters to a warehouse. Next Monday there were only terminals available, and the staff had no other alternative except to use them.

"People resist the computer age because it forces them to change more radically than other equipment changes—it's not merely a change of keyboards. It forces a cultural update," observes Krieger. "Most believe they already know all they need to work. Need is the best way I know to enter the computer era." There are alternatives to need. Rio de Janeiro boasts more than 500 computer courses. But teenagers hate them. They prefer to get into the electronic information age guided by

friends, magazines and by trial and error. "The guys who go to computer courses are lower middle class and don't have access to computers. They come here not to listen but to sit in front of a keyboard and a monitor and do what they want to do. What we teach is useless, they only want the machine," admits José Fradique, who runs a computer course in a northern part of Rio.

Brazilians also seem intent on running before they can walk, their enthusiasm for cyberspace outstripping their efforts to computerize themselves. At the end of 1994 there were—at most—500 regular "surfers" on the Internet. Last March the Brazilian body of the Net estimated that 200,000 persons were wired. In 1995 there were no more than 5 servers (on-line gateways to the Net); 12 months later the number climbed to 200 and the Brazilian-owned home pages reached 2,500.

But Brazil still lags behind the US and most of first world countries. Of the 10 biggest industrial corporations, a mere three have a Web-site on the Internet, and it was only this year that the big Brazilian universities opened their home pages to public access.

Krieger doesn't worry about voyaging into cyberspace. "It's too complicated and of no immediate utility to me, and furthermore, too expensive," he admits. But his son can hardly wait to surf in the virtual space, and the Kriegers spent US\$2,600 last year to buy a 486 PC clone, a dot matrix printer and pirated games software.

Most parents with home connections to the Internet complain that their teenagers are putting the domestic budget deeply into the red by spending hours and hours navigating through home pages. Online services charge a \$30 monthly fee which is good for 10 hours before additional charges are levied. "I thought it was enough, but my son stayed connected for 9 hours the first night we were wired," complains José Mauro Volkmer, the head of the Advanced Computer Laboratory of the Rio Grande do Sul University, where he manages the biggest scientific main frame computer in Latin America. His phone bill jumped to \$200 in the first month after getting access to the Net from his home computer.

Money is the most powerful brake on Brazil's high speed race into the computer age. Prices are very high compared with the ones in the US market. For instance, one clone of an IBM PC with a dot matrix printer costs between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

Another critical limitation is upgrading. The huge majority of private owners consider computers as a lifetime purchase. They fail to take into ac-

count that computers are constantly upgraded. Almost 60 percent of all Brazilian computers are outdated 386 PC models. Pentiums account for less than 10 percent of those in use, and people cannot afford newer models.

But computer corporations like Compaq, IBM and Hewlett Packard, are betting that the market will double in the next two years. If this projection becomes a reality, Brazil will have more computers than the rest of Latin America combined, but will still be third in terms of per capita PC ownership after Mexico and Chile. ☐

CARLOS CASTILHO IS A FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST BASED IN FLORIANOPOLIS, BRAZIL.

INFO-HOOPS

Continued from page 1

the narrow confines of economic productivity to enter the lives and development of individuals within the economy, and has begun to display growth patterns that are not constrained (although they are still affected) by overall economic performance.

This fourth phase is therefore the gateway into the new information age. To reach it, it is certainly necessary for countries to go through the first two phases, although there may be no need for a period of consolidation before leaping into the new age.

It is also our view that there is no "natural pace" at which progress through these phases must proceed. Investment in key elements such as secondary education and the telephone infrastructure, support for faster absorption of PCs in the homes and schools, and recognition of the critical importance of software for broader, more meaningful usage of computers can significantly shorten the gap between phases.

IDC and World Times intend to revisit the Information Imperative Index on an annual basis, to give countries a benchmark on their progress towards a possible future—one in which all their citizens can master the economic tools and achieve the personal empowerment needed to win seats at the table in the new age—and the new century now before us. ☐

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Editor-in-Chief: Constance Stone, Jr.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 15-21 June

ENGLISH PROGRAMS SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
4:00—Blue Heelers
4:30—Big Brother Jake
5:00—Sports (Football)
5:30—The Torkelsons
6:00—Sports (Football)
6:30—News at Ten
7:00—The Bold and the Beautiful
7:30—Feature Film: *William*, starring: Ira Mitchell and John Papai

SUNDAY

3:00—The Mask
3:30—Mac and Mutley
4:00—Sports (Football)
4:30—Cinema, Cinema
5:00—Sports (Football)
5:30—News at Ten
6:00—The Bold and the Beautiful
6:30—Counterstrike

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean
4:30—French Programs
5:00—Nanny
5:30—Rock Around the World
6:00—News at Ten
6:30—The Bold and the Beautiful

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor
3:30—Captain Planet
4:00—The Bob Morrison Show

WEDNESDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
3:30—Iris
3:45—Bill Nye, the Science Guy
4:00—Kelly
4:30—French Programs
5:00—News Headlines
5:30—Chancer
6:00—Hunter
6:30—News at Ten
7:00—The Bold and the Beautiful
7:30—Airwolf

THURSDAY

3:00—Double Dragon
3:30—NBA
4:00—Pirates
4:30—French Programs
5:00—Carol and Company
5:30—Tarata
6:00—Star Trek
6:30—News at Ten
7:00—Feature Film: *Coach of the Year*, starring: Robert Conrad and Erin Gray
7:30—Family Matters

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris
3:30—Pebbles and Bam-Bam Show
4:00—Bush School
4:30—See How They Grow
5:00—The Crystal Maze
5:30—French Programs
6:00—Growing Pains

SATURDAY

3:00—Iris
3:30—Pebbles and Bam-Bam Show
4:00—Bush School
4:30—See How They Grow
5:00—The Crystal Maze
5:30—French Programs
6:00—Growing Pains

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6:00—Growing Pains

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris
3:30—Pebbles and Bam-Bam Show
4:00—Bush School
4:30—See How They Grow
5:00—The Crystal Maze
5:30—French Programs
6:00—Growing Pains

SATURDAY

3:00—Iris
3:30—Pebbles and Bam-Bam Show
4:00—Bush School
4:30—See How They Grow
5:00—The Crystal Maze
5:30—French Programs
6:00—Growing Pains

SUNDAY

3:00—Iris
3:30—Pebbles and Bam-Bam Show
4:00—Bush School
4:30—See How They Grow
5:00—The Crystal Maze
5:30—French Programs
6:00—Growing Pains

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Wilhemina Wiggins-Fernandez, interprète le rôle de la «Diva» de Benex, le 21 à 17h30.

8:45—It Had to be You
9:10—The Wanderer
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Classic Movie: *The Country Girl*, starring: Grace Kelly and William Holden

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Magazine
6:30—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

SUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Magazine
6:30—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

JEUDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Magazine
6:30—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

VENREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Magazine
6:30—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

SAMEDI

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5:00—Dessins animés
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Sports et musique

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Jeux
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6:30—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

SUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Magazine
6:30—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

Cinema

• **"SUDDEN DEATH"** (MCA/Universal, \$100.71): Jean-Claude Van Damme is back in typical action in this adventure, which translates into "Die Hard" in a hockey arena, more or less. His fire-marshall character combats terrorists who have taken over a crowded hockey arena during the Stanley Cup finals, mainly because one of those in attendance is the vice president of the United States: Powers Boothe also stars. ** (R: AS, P, V)

• **"BIO-DOME"** (MGM/UA, \$100.71): Putting Pauly Shore inside a sealed environment with a group of scientists is sure to put a different spin than anticipated on the experiment's results, and he's joined by Stephen Baldwin ("Three-Some") as another offbeat fellow inside the sphere in this comedy. William Atherton ("Die Hard") and Australian actress-singer Kylie Minogue are among the others involved. ** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

• **HELD OVER: "LES MISERABLES"** (Warner, \$100.71): The classic Victor Hugo story gets a different sort of screen treatment, as French superstar Jean-Paul Belmondo plays a boxer whose story resembles that of Jean Valjean, the desperate man compelled to practice thievery to survive... making him the quarry of a relentless police inspector. The film also boasts "the exceptional participation" of acting veteran Jean Marais. *** (R: AS, P, V)

• **"STREETS OF LAREDO"** (Cabin Fever, \$19.95 in EP mode, \$39.95 in SP mode): Though there was a "Return to Lonesome Dove," this miniseries — shown last fall by CBS — is based on author Larry McMurtry's official sequel to the earlier western. James Garner portrays Capt. Woodrow Call, now a bounty hunter hired to find a notorious bandit; Sissy Spacek, Sam Shepard and Randy Quaid also star. *** (Not rated: AS, P, V)

• **"TOTAL ECLIPSE"** (New Line, \$97.51): Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Basketball Diaries") and David Thewlis ("Naked") make an intriguing acting duo in the drama of the creatively challenging relationship between poet Rimbaud and writer Verlaine in the Paris of the 19th century. Written by "Dangerous Liaisons" author Christopher Hampton, the film was directed by Agnieszka Holland ("The Secret Garden"). *** (R: AS, P)

• **COMING SOON: "THE CROSSING GUARD"** (Miramax, June 18): Jack Nicholson stars in the Sean Penn-written and directed drama about a man harboring a deep desire for revenge. (R)

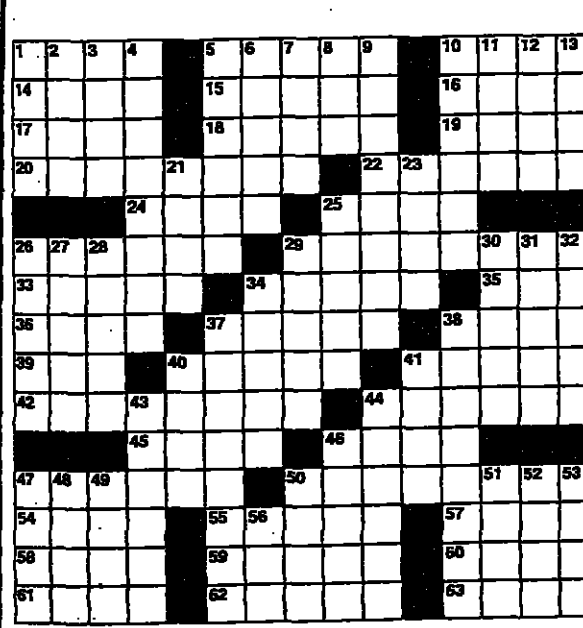
• **"HEAT"** (Warner, June 18): Al Pacino and Robert De Niro are teamed as, respectively, a veteran police detective and a master thief; Val Kilmer also is featured. (R)

• **"MIGHTY APHRODITE"** (Miramax, June 18): Mira Sorvino earned an Oscar as a prostitute sought out by an adoptive father (Woody Allen, who also wrote and directed). (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Reduce to a
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IF ANTS ARE SUCH BUSY WORKERS, HOW COME THEY FIND TIME TO GO TO ALL THE PICNICS?

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: It's always easier to do paperwork while the sun's in Gemini, as it is now. If you've got a paper to write, do it now.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Don't get too riled up; stay effective. Find new ways to bring money into your pockets. You'll find just the right words.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Don't even ask for an extension on material that's due. You'll get stronger and stay powerful. Buy yourself something fun during this phase.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Let your friends coach you to try something daring. Avoid distractions and finish all your assignments. Even turn down social engagements.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Treat an intense supervisor with respect and make points. Turn in everything that's due and you'll feel much better.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You're lucky. Use your experience. Just do what you're told. That's part of the lesson you're learning.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Pay a debt and improve your credit. There's a real-life exam on business. Pay attention and you'll make a profit.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Turn down an attractive offer to honor a previous commitment. Take care of business. Work will be a breeze.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Focus on the work that needs to be done and ignore an irritating co-worker. You'll get more done if you share the load with a partner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Fall in love with somebody you've known a long time. You'll be lucid and imaginative — excellent for sparring with an aggressive partner.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A friend's fit may be a bid for attention. Give some, instead of arguing. Romance blossoms. Unfortunately, you've got to work.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Study your toughest subjects. Stay home as much as possible and practice what you're learning. You should be ready for anything.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Buy something neat for your home or a friend. There's a lot of activity at home.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Your friends are the key to your success this year. Rely on them.

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Bridge

The Penalty Fits the Crime
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q J 4 3 2
♥ 8 7 5
♦ A J
♣ 5 3

WEST
♠ 10 5
♥ K J 9 4 2
♦ Q 8 5 3 2
♣ 2

EAST
♠ K 9 7 6
♥ 3
♦ K 10 9 7 4
♣ J 10 6

SOUTH
♠ 8
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ 6
♣ A K Q 9 8 7 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ 1♥ 1♠ 1♥
2♥ 2♠ 2♠ 2♠
4♥ 4♠ 4♠ 4♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

These days players have become increasingly prone to featherweight overcalls. On this hand it backfired on West in a rather strange manner.

South had visions of slam when North made a free bid of one spade after the overcall. However, when North could do no more than rebid spades over the cue-bid, then simply

raise four clubs to game, South yielded reluctantly but wisely.

West made the good shot of a diamond opening lead. Since the king of spades rated to be with West, it looked as if the contract was safe enough. But what if East should hold that card? Declarer found a brilliant psychological maneuver which, based on the bidding, was bound to succeed.

At trick one declarer played dummy's jack of diamonds! In with the king. East made the normal shift to the singleton heart. Declarer rose with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds, discarding a heart from dummy, and then led a spade to the jack. Had that held, declarer would have discarded two hearts from hand on the aces of diamonds and spades, then conceded a heart to the enemy and claimed the vulnerable game.

The finesse lost, but the contract was still safe. On winning the king East was endplayed. With nothing left but spades and diamonds, East had to put declarer in dummy, and South was able to obtain three heart discards on the ace-queen of spades and ace of diamonds.

What if West had passed? Declarer would probably have relied on one of two heart finesses, and gone down to defeat.

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Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UGGEA
SNAIE
OETAGE
RETHEN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: WITH A

DOE NEST A HLTIT — WITH A NEST BOO

ANSWER: GAUGE ANISE GOATLE NEITHER



HOW THE CHICKEN FARMER GOT HIS START.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: WITH A

DOE NEST A HLTIT — WITH A NEST BOO

ANSWER: GAUGE ANISE GOATLE NEITHER

Words of Wisdom

Forgetting is what makes it possible for people to continue living.

...
If you're judged by the company you keep, you're also judged by the company you stay away from.

...
Work for yourself first, and for others second.

...
Part of wisdom resides in not telling others how much wiser you are than they.

...
You don't have to worry about mending fences if you don't straddle them.

...
If you can't decide when to begin, it will always be too late.

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Amman Little League Baseball

Minor League Standings

Team	Wins	Losses	PCT	GB
Al-Ghazalain	7	1	0.875	0
Schweppes	6	2	0.750	1
Mid Contracting	5	2	0.714	2
Pyro-Chem	4	4	0.500	3
Twyford	4	4	0.500	3
Al-Rawnak	4	4	0.500	3
Alphacan	3	4	0.429	4
Opel	0	8	0.000	7

Major League Standings

Team	Wins	Losses	PCT	GB
Med Labs	7	1	0.875	0
Sipes	7	1	0.750	0
Jordan Today	5	3	0.625	2
National Portfolio	3	5	0.375	4
Foxboro	2	6	0.250	5
Epson	0	8	0.000	7

Senior League

Team	Wins	Losses	PCT	GB
Marriott	4	2	0.667	0
Skoda	2	4	0.333	0
Euro Dollar	4	4	0.500	0

T-Ball

Team	Wins	Losses	PCT	GB
Chappee	4	2	0.667	0
Royal Jordanian	2	4	0.333	0
Orbit	4	4	0.500	0
Koch	4	4	0.500	0

Jab Byro Aspirin Characters

The Star

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Les bus passent la frontière

Six lignes directes d'autobus ont été ouvertes cette semaine entre la Jordanie et Israël. Les transports publics restaient les seuls véhicules civils à ne pas pouvoir traverser cette frontière. Six départs existent désormais au départ de la Jordanie: Amman/Tel-Aviv, Amman/Nazareth, Amman/Haifa, Irbid/Haifa, Irbid/Nazareth, et Akaba/Eilat. Toutes sont exploitées par une compagnie privée jordanienne. Une liaison maritime entre Eilat et Akaba doit elle voir le jour fin juin.



Communiqué publicitaire

Air France

A tenu sa conférence régionale du Proche-Orient du 4 au 6 juin, à Jor-
nie, à Taybet Zaman. Cette réunion pré-
sidée par le directeur général de l'Afrique et
du Moyen-Orient, M. Jean-Pierre Hoss, a
réunifié 52 participants venant
d'Égypte, du Liban, de Syrie, de Jordanie,
du Soudan et d'Irak.
La mise en place du HUB à l'aéroport
Roissy-Charles de Gaulle/Terminal 2 qui
a permis la création de 348 correspon-
dances et l'amélioration de 64 était à
l'ordre du jour. Tout comme l'amé-
lioration de la qualité du service à bord
des avions, et l'introduction des produits
Espace/Tempo qui vont équiper pro-
chainement les lignes Afrique et Moyen-
Orient.



SELON

Nombreux sont les avantages de la Jordanie pour les touristes. Amman est à quatre heures et demie de Paris, le climat est fort agréable huit mois par an, les visas s'obtiennent facilement à l'aéroport, les sites archéologiques sont fabuleux, la sécurité règne et les Jordaniens, accueillants et chaleureux, n'ont pas encore appris les combines et les arnaques de certains pays voisins.

Il y a 30 ans, le tourisme en Jordanie se résumait à quelques pèlerinages sur les Lieux Saints qui faisaient partie du royaume.

Lorsque la guerre du Liban a éclaté en 1975, les Libanais ont réussi, grâce à leur longue expérience dans ce domaine, à faire découvrir aux Jordaniens et aux habitants du Golfe qui pouvaient progressivement oublier Beyrouth et l'impitoyable chaleur estivale de leurs pays dans nos bars et night-clubs très timide-ment «libanais».

Le succès du tourisme dans les pays voisins et la soudaine découverte des sites archéologiques en Jordanie ont incité les agences de voyages en Occident à s'intéresser à notre pays.

La vague de violence contre les touristes en Égypte et en Jordanie associée aux effets néfastes de l'intifada sur le tourisme en Israël ont participé à la naissance, sans efforts de leur mère, du tourisme en Jordanie qui occupe aujourd'hui une place dans les projets des curieux et des professionnels des ruines.

Si la Jordanie possède bien un capital touristique, elle peut difficilement être qualifiée de pays touristique car les pays viennent ici pour voir Pétra ou Jérash mais ne viennent pas parce que notre ministère du tourisme exporte brillamment l'image de notre pays à l'étranger.

Il y a 15 ans, le bureau de la Royal Jordanian de Paris décorait ses vitrines avec un gigantesque boeing 747 tandis que les murs de l'office de tourisme israélien fleurissaient de posters montrant de ravissantes blondes faisant du surf à quelques mètres d'Aqaba.

Aujourd'hui, les méthodes ont légèrement évolué mais les mentalités sont restées les mêmes. Le tourisme national continue à être géré par des individus inexpérimentés que nous remplaçons dès qu'ils commencent à être efficaces.

Au lieu d'avoir honte, les «irresponsables» du tourisme jordanien hurlent des slogans de victoire en publiant un chiffre désolant de moins de 400 000 touristes à Pétra en 1995, et ceci malgré l'afflux de nos voisins israéliens. Ce bilan devrait nous faire réfléchir à l'avenir incertain du tourisme national.

Car il ne faut pas oublier que désormais, les touristes pourront se rendre à Pétra en partant le matin d'Eilat et dîner le soir même sur l'autre rive d'Akaba, tout en évoquant les splendeurs de la côte jordanienne.

Suhail Al Sweis

Eau

La note salée du dessalement

Le groupe des multilatérales sur l'eau résultant des accords de paix s'est réuni le mois dernier en Tunisie à Hammamet pour faire le point sur les différents projets dans le domaine de l'eau concernant le Proche-Orient, et notamment la Jordanie.

Koussai Quouteishat était le chef de la délégation jordanienne à la réunion d'Hammamet en Tunisie. Il occupe les doubles fonctions de secrétaire général de l'Autorité jordanienne de l'eau et du ministère de l'Eau et de l'Irrigation. Il nous explique quelles ont été les retombées de cette réunion pour le royaume hachémite.

Le projet d'une station de dessalement jordanienne a été abordé à la réunion d'Hammamet. La Jordanie va-t-elle être bientôt dotée d'une telle infrastructure?

La construction d'une première station de dessalement fait bien sûr partie des grands projets en ce qui concerne le domaine de l'eau en Jordanie. L'étude de faisabilité est désormais terminée. Elle a été réalisée par une entreprise japonaise. Il s'agit maintenant de trouver un financement, soit 20 millions de dollars.

Cette usine apporterait-elle à la Jordanie d'importantes nouvelles ressources en eau?

C'est avant tout un projet-pilote. On ne pourrait pas compter sur plus de cinq millions de mètres cubes d'eau dessalée par an. Mais surtout, cela permettrait à la Jordanie de disposer d'un équipement de haute technologie, comme c'est le cas dans de nombreux pays du Golfe.

Ce projet de dessalement concernerait quel type d'eau? Les eaux saumâtres, qui contiennent une quantité de sel peu élevée, et qui nécessitent donc un processus de dessalement

plus léger que pour l'eau de mer.

Ce dessalement des eaux saumâtres, s'il était réalisé à grande échelle, apporterait combien de réserves supplémentaires à la Jordanie?

Le potentiel d'eau saumâtre pouvant être dessalée oscille entre 50 et 70 millions de mètres cubes par an. C'est pourquoi il est nécessaire de développer cette technologie qui nous aiderait à réduire notre déficit en eau.

A combien estimez-vous ce déficit pour l'année à venir?

Si l'on se base sur la quantité quotidienne d'eau utilisée par habitant - 73 litres pour la Jordanie - par rapport aux réserves, on peut chiffrer le déficit à 30%. (ndlr: soit un déficit d'environ 400 millions de mètres cubes d'eau).

L'agriculture absorbant 75% de l'eau consommée dans le royaume, est-il envisageable de réduire ce secteur pour faire face aux besoins grandissants de la population urbaine?

Notre politique est de maintenir le secteur agricole dans les proportions actuelles, et non de le réduire. L'eau qui est utilisée pour irriguer est une eau traitée. On a tendance à oublier que la Jordanie est le pays de la région qui traite le plus ses eaux usées. Or, nous avons besoin de continuer dans cette voie en construisant de nouvelles usines de traitement.

Vous vous êtes justement



Selon Koussai Quouteishat, le déficit en eau de la Jordanie devrait atteindre cette année 30% de ses besoins.

récentement rendu à Marseille pour un salon mondial sur l'eau, Hydrotop. Avez-vous durant ce salon conclu des contrats pour de nouvelles infrastructures en Jordanie?

Non. Ce type de manifestation est une vitrine des différentes technologies existant dans le monde entier. Cela permet surtout de comparer les ex-

périences dans le secteur de l'eau avec différents pays, et notamment les pays arabes. Dans ce domaine, les pays du Maghreb ont plus d'avance et il était intéressant de voir comment il gère le problème de l'eau.

Oroub El Abed

Un rationnement inévitable

Selon le porte-parole du ministère de l'Eau et de l'Irrigation, Adnan S. Zoubi, le déficit en eau de la Jordanie va s'élever cet été à 8000 mètres cubes par heure.

La croissance de la population et l'augmentation du nombre de touristes entraînent la hausse des besoins jordaniens, passant de 30 000 mètres cubes d'eau par heure en 1995 à 36 000 mètres cubes en 1996. Or, l'approvisionnement possible ne se monte qu'à 28 000 mètres cubes d'eau par heure.

Des mesures de rationnement sont donc obligatoires. «Nous n'avons pas le choix», explique M. Zoubi. «Nous ne pouvons pas distribuer toute l'eau d'un coup, comme en hiver».

Il a rajouté que l'hiver dernier, peu pluvieux, rendait la situation actuelle critique car les réserves d'eau sont aujourd'hui très limitées.

Festival de jazz euro-arabe

Sclavis et ses acolytes en acoustique

L'Acoustic Quartet dirigé par Louis Sclavis et Dominique Pifarély réunit quatre musiciens d'une même génération qui jouent avec passion un jazz aventureux. Il jouera ce soir à l'amphithéâtre romain d'Amman, avec Nathalie Loriers trio en première partie.

Sacré en 1988 prix Django Reinhardt, Louis Sclavis s'est vite imposé comme l'un des plus créatifs improvisateurs du jazz français. Toujours à l'affût d'expériences inédites, cet élégant musicien a choisi d'aller ailleurs et de creuser quelque chose de toujours nouveau. Ce qui l'autorise à proclamer aujourd'hui: «je n'ai jamais eu ni maître ni modèle. Pour un jazzman, c'est du reste d'avantage dans son jeu instrumental que dans ses compositions que l'on peut déceler les influences. Or, dans ma façon de jouer de la clarinette, je ne pense pas que l'on puisse retrouver quelque musicien que ce soit».

Né à Lyon en 1953, Louis Sclavis débute la musique à l'âge de dix ans, avec une clarinette parce qu'il est «sur petit pour le piano à bretelles». Il rejoint dix ans plus tard le Free jazz workshop de Lyon et participe à la fondation en 1976 de l'Association pour la recherche d'un folklore imaginaire. «On allait tout entendre et tout nous passionner. C'était ça les années 70: une ouverture magnifique. Je sentais que je pouvais

me lancer dans tout, comme je m'étais jeté à l'eau la première fois: avec la certitude qu'il y aurait un aîné pour me tirer de là et m'apprendre à nager. En musique, mes sauveteurs ont été les gens de l'Arj. Puis Bernard Lubat, le musicien le plus libre que je n'ai jamais rencontré. Et Jacques Di Donato, et Michel Portal... A leur contact, j'ai vraiment appris à jouer. Je travaillais encore tous les jours ma technique. Et ma connaissance du jazz qui comporte d'énormes lacunes, même si j'ai étudié à fond des périodes et des musiciens - Duke Ellington en tête».

Il dirige actuellement trois formations musicales: l'Acoustic quartet qui donne une musique contemporaine très subtilement composée, un sextette de jazz d'avant-garde et un trio qui cultive l'improvisation.

Louis Sclavis a également travaillé avec la danseuse-chorégraphe Mathilde Monnier. Ensemble, ils ont conçu le spectacle «Chinoiserie».

Son charisme, sa maîtrise instrumentale, sa force de musicien, son inventivité et sa rare volonté de rythme font de Louis Sclavis le bien aimé de la musique improvisée européenne.

La carrière de Dominique Pifarély est marquée par la même envie de se diriger continuellement vers de nouveaux horizons. Ce violoniste s'est formé et inventé une personnalité forte au contact du ghotu du jazz européen, jouant notamment avec le Vienna Art Orchestra, Michel Portal ou Martial Solal.

Sa sûreté instrumentale sans faille, sa grande élégance d'expression, font de lui l'un



Formé en 1992, l'Acoustic Quartet est composé de quatre grands jazzmen: Louis Sclavis (clarinette), Dominique Pifarély (violin), Marc Ducret (guitare) et Bruno Chevillon (contrebasse).

des plus brillants chefs de file du violon jazz «made in France».

Quant à Marc Ducret, surdoué parmi les surdoués, il s'est vite imposé comme l'un des meilleurs guitaristes de jazz au monde. Comme ses trois autres compagnons de l'Acoustic Quartet, Marc Ducret se fait du jazz et de la musique improvisée une idée exigeante, aventureuse et libre sur laquelle il se refuse à transiger. Et il a techni-

quement, mais surtout musicalement, les moyens de ses ambitions.

Avec à la contrebasse Bruno Chevillon, un vieux compagnon de Sclavis depuis des années, ce quartet joue une musique limpide qui sait parfaitement combiner les mises en forme les plus rigoureuses avec les effets paradoxaux.

Pascal Anquetil

Pour le 14 juillet, le Star vous ouvre ses pages.

Un supplément spécial en français sera réalisé à l'occasion de la fête nationale de la France.

Une place spéciale est réservée aux entreprises souhaitant profiter de cette opportunité pour faire de la publicité.

Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras au Star. Tel: 645 380 ou 652 380. Fax: 648 298

Découverte

Un avion à rédaction

Le quotidien Le Monde était de passage en Jordanie. 160 lecteurs partis en avion à la découverte du Proche-Orient en compagnie de journalistes se sont arrêtés à Amman le temps d'une conférence.

Le quotidien Le Monde, le plus prestigieux de France, s'est transformé l'espace d'une semaine en agence de voyages. Pour la première fois, ce quotidien a décidé d'organiser un voyage d'études pour ses lecteurs, auquel participaient plusieurs journalistes de sa rédaction. «Le but est de faire partager à nos lecteurs notre façon d'aborder les réalités de la région, en leur permettant de le faire à la manière des journa-

listes», explique Anne Chaussebourg, directeur délégué du journal.

Le thème de ce voyage était «la reconstruction de la paix au Proche-Orient». Arrivés à Beyrouth, les participants se sont ensuite rendus en Syrie, en Jordanie puis en Israël à bord d'un avion spécial affrété par Le Monde.

Dans chaque pays traversé, des conférences-débats étaient organisées pour permettre aux voyageurs d'avoir une idée glo-

bale de la situation économique, politique et culturelle.

A Amman, quatre personnalités étaient présentes samedi pour animer un débat en français de plus de deux heures: Monsieur l'ambassadeur de France, Bernard Bajoles; Mohammed Olwan, doyen de la faculté de droit de l'université du Yarmouk; Fahmi Jadda, professeur de philosophie; et Ali Kassay, qui a été notamment conseiller du roi et de prince héritier.

Plantu planche sur le roi

Assis au milieu des 160 lecteurs assidus du Monde participant à ce voyage, Plantu passe pour un anonyme. Il est pourtant le caricaturiste le plus connu de France, depuis que le quotidien Le Monde a décidé de publier ses dessins en première page en 1985. Sa caricature quotidienne est habituellement la première information que reçoivent les lecteurs du journal. Son coup de crayon et son humour lui assurent une grande popularité en France.

Venu pour découvrir la région, il s'intéresse aux différents médias y existant, et à la place qu'y occupe la caricature. «Farzat, un dessinateur syrien, est celui qui est le plus connu en Europe. J'ai eu l'occasion de le rencontrer à plusieurs reprises», explique Plantu.

Si la caricature est moins répandue dans le monde arabe, c'est bien sûr parce qu'elle n'est pas toujours tolérée. Ainsi, en Jordanie, la loi stipule que les caricatures du roi Hussein doivent toujours montrer le souverain hachémite sous un jour favorable. Plantu a déjà dessiné le roi

Hussein, notamment en novembre 1992 alors qu'il accompagnait la visite officielle du président Mitterrand. Il avait alors personnellement demandé au roi Hussein s'il envisageait la situation politique régionale comme il l'avait représentée dans le dessin ci-dessous. «Le roi Hussein m'avait répondu qu'il était d'accord avec ce dessin» commente Plantu. Une question qu'il avait aussi posée à François Mitterrand. «Le président m'avait alors dit qu'il

aurait personnellement un peu modifié le texte de ce dessin, me conseillant à l'avenir de ne pas hésiter à lui demander plus souvent son avis».

Pour Plantu, dessiner le roi Hussein de Jordanie ne pose en fait qu'un seul problème: «Je ne sais jamais s'il a une barbe, un bouc, ou bien s'il s'est rasé. A chaque fois que je dois le dessiner, je suis obligé de le guetter à la télévision pour savoir quel est son nouveau look».

Olivier Bras



Exposition

Un style unique et spontané

Exposé dans de nombreuses galeries à l'étranger, le peintre jordanien Ahmad Nawash est l'un des plus originaux de la région. L'association jordanienne d'arts plastiques présente une vingtaine de ses œuvres jusqu'au 29 juin.

Ahmad Nawash dévoile ses dernières créations à l'Association jordanienne d'arts plastiques, à Jebel el Weibdeh. Une vingtaine de tableaux récents témoignent de l'évolution picturale de cet artiste qui connaît une renommée internationale.

Ce peintre jordanien d'origine palestinienne, né en 1934 à Ein-Karem, réside actuellement en Jordanie. Il a étudié les Beaux-Arts en France et en Italie. Ses tableaux ont franchi les frontières du royaume et plusieurs de ses œuvres sont exposées en permanence à l'Institut du monde arabe de Paris, ainsi que dans des galeries en Tunisie ou bien au Pakistan.

«Mon inspiration est l'humanité et son devenir, la tragédie du monde arabe et tout particulièrement la tragédie vécue par le peuple palestinien», explique Ahmad Nawash. «Le peintre qui ne représente pas les souffrances de son peuple dans sa peinture n'est pas un vrai peintre car sa peinture perd son âme et son sens».

«Je m'inspire de ce qui me choque au quotidien, et les événements ne manquent pas: la guerre, l'injustice, les familles chassées de leurs foyers, l'hygiène...».

Au premier coup d'œil, certaines de ses toiles peuvent paraître naïves. Ahmad Nawash possède un style unique: il représente des silhouettes humaines aux proportions déformées baignant dans des coloris simples. Mais la simplicité de sa technique n'est qu'apparente. C'est au contraire la peinture d'un esprit tourmenté et complexe. Les surfaces de ses toiles sont très travaillées, et les couleurs employées sont faîtes à partir de nombreuses couleurs. Ahmad Nawash ne se contente en effet pas des coloris tels

qu'ils sortent des tubes.

«Quand je prends mon pinceau, c'est à chaque fois comme si je peignais pour la première fois», avoue Ahmad Nawash. «J'oublie les autres tableaux et je laisse libre cours à mes envies. Toutes mes œuvres sont différentes. A chaque fois, il y a de nouvelles idées et une nouvelle sensation à travers les couleurs».

Au-delà de la forme, les manières «d'assouplissement» rapprochent ses observations à la désespérance de certains peintres internationaux comme Van Gogh ou Klee. Mais il leur est difficile de rattraper son style à une école d'arts ou un peintre, à cause de son style unique et



spontané qui a fait de lui le peintre le plus original de la région.

Mona Kaddoum

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

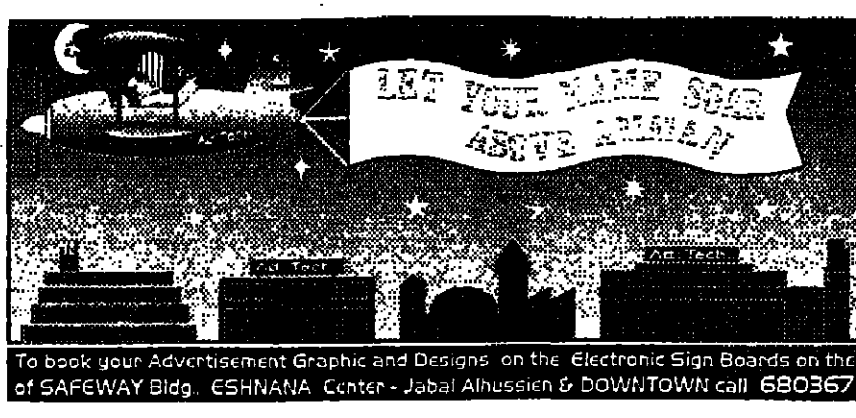
«Autour de minuit», de Rafic Majzoub, jeune auteur Bertrand Tavernier avec tiste d'origine palestinienne, expose ses toiles jusqu'au 27 juin au CCF.

Nuit de la musique

Le 19 juin au CCF: 18h00: «La chanson française» par Alexi Fitta. Une conférence présentant la chanson française depuis ses origines. 20h00: «Farinelli», un film de Gérard Corbiau.

Activities

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American Centre Library	820101	Pizza Cinema	609238
British Council	6361478	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
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Goethe Institute	641993	Sports Clubs	
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858	Al Hussein Sports City	6671815
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Orthodox Club	810491
Haya Arts Centre	665195	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Y.W.M.A.	664251	Royal Chess Club	673713
Dar al Funun	643252	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Alia Art Gallery	639303	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
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Agriculture	686151	Parliamentary Affairs	641211
Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
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RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200

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THE STAR'S WORKSTATION COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

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Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is tuning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com.Jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

Microsoft Middle East's new boss speaks his mind: Chami: 'Microsoft is here to stay'

DURING MARCH 1996, Microsoft appointed a new general manager for its Middle East office, in a move to inject new blood into the company's regional operations.

Mr Ahmed Chami, Microsoft's 34-year-old new boss, comes to this post following his work as Microsoft's manager for the North Africa region, during which he gained wide marketing experience for Microsoft products. His main tasks now are to concentrate efforts on strengthening Microsoft's relations with its clients and distributors across the Middle East, in addition to widening the company's marketing operations to boost sales further.

Editor-in-Chief of *BYTE Middle East*, Mr Khalid Tabaza, spoke to Mr Chami, to shed some light on Microsoft's policies and strategies in the Middle East, especially now, as the announced release date for Arabic Windows 95 and Office 95 is approaching.

Mr Chami began by discussing Microsoft's impressive achievements, in its relatively short period of presence in the region.

In the last three years since Microsoft Middle East was established, much effort was made to introduce Arabic products and develop effective distribution channels that have created a wide client base for Microsoft in the region. "There is still much to be done. We will implement some important changes, to capitalize on opportunities which we may have not utilized in the past and we will provide the necessary resources for that," said Mr Chami.

Responding to a question about the possibilities of developing Microsoft's situation in the region, Mr Chami stated that Microsoft will be more sales and marketing-driven in the Middle East.

Although Microsoft will work to develop its own applications for Arabic Windows 95, in order to generate the required enthusiasm for this new operating system, there will be training and development tools offered to other developers.

By doing so, these developers will be Microsoft's partners, rather than competitors. They will be fully provided with the required technologies to develop these solutions, cater for specific needs like commercial banking or governmental automation, for example, which are expected to be built around Arabic software developed by other parties.

As to Microsoft's relation with IBM in the region, it is expected that there will be more cooperation between the two as IBM is interested in providing suitable servers for Windows NT solutions. Such is the case already in three major Moroccan banks.

Regarding the possibility that Microsoft may move its Arabic development team into the region, Mr Chami stated that this was not expected to happen for a number of reasons including the dangers of piracy. Instead, Microsoft will cooperate with local companies for the purpose of Arabizing documentation.

According to Mr Chami, Microsoft has long invested in developing Arabic software, providing Arabic Windows and Arabic applications such as the Office suite and Visual Basic. Still, Microsoft may have missed out on some opportunities in the past, but it will be sure to present its products to market on time in the future, improving the status of its Arabic products.

Microsoft's expanded operations in Egypt and Saudi Arabia aim to recruit highly qualified local staff, capable of providing superior marketing, administrative and technical support skills. There will be focus on doing so in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, and maybe Jordan.

In a final word to Microsoft's distributors, Mr Chami, "Microsoft is here to stay and we will be investing more of our resources. I am here to help developers, users, and distributors."

Other benefits of NUA membership include receiving

ing seminars and workshops, allowing you to benefit from the knowledge of NUA Special Interest Groups such as the Programming, Security and Auditing, and Disaster Prevention and Recovery Special Interest Groups.

Finally, you will receive technical support from other members that have, through experience, already come across your

the limited number of compatibles that have arisen in the past two years. Following an agreement reached between IBM and Apple, you can expect to see Macintosh OS running on all sorts of computer brands.

The agreement allows IBM to sell PowerPC processors with sub-licenses to provide the Macintosh OS to computer makers interested in adopting this architecture.

Apple had been IBM and Motorola's partner in producing the PowerPC architecture. With the Macintosh OS agreement, the alliance of these three giants will be further strengthened.

IBM has already initiated licenses with companies like DataTech and Tatum, to capitalize on this agreement.

IBM itself has announced plans to introduce a notebook computer, based on the PowerPC processor, which will run 'Power Macintosh OS'.

Now, IBM will concentrate its efforts on providing the technical specifications for the new industry standard it plans to provide. These specifications should be ready by the end of this year, and will herald in an opportunity for widespread use of the Macintosh OS, eventually strengthening its position as an established standard.

Novell Internet software news & user group : International NetWare User group seeks members in the Middle East

NOVELL IS currently reviewing the benefits of offering Novell's Middle East customers membership in the NetWare Users Association (NUA), an independent User Group for NetWare based network users.

The NetWare Users Association is affiliated with NetWare Users International (NUI) in the USA and is actively involved in the promotion of better communications links in England, Europe and Worldwide.

The NetWare Users Association and Novell work closely together to improve the services and support offered to Novell end-users.

The Association is concerned with providing a forum for users of NetWare related products to voice an opinion to the vendors of these products. It also provides a useful information exchange forum for members to share their own networking experience and solutions.

Other benefits of NUA membership include receiving

NUA's monthly newsletter *NUANews* plus a free subscription to Novell's bi-monthly *NetWare Connection* magazine.

Also, you will receive invitations to NUA technical network-

type of network problems before. For more information, contact Novell Middle East in Dubai at telephone ++ 971 4 316444 or fax ++ 971 4 319248.

Novell InnerWeb Publisher & Java licensing

On another note, Novell has launched a corporate intranet publishing suite, Novell InnerWeb Publisher, designed to bring power of the World Wide Web to users' existing corporate networks. The suite is powered by the world's fastest web server, NetWare Web Server 2.5, and includes a web browser, a web-page authoring tool, an IPX-to-IP translator and the NetWare 4.1 Runtime operating system.

Also on the subject of Internet software, Novell has finalized an agreement with Sun Microsystems to license its Java platform for use with NetWare. Novell is authorized to offer its customers access to the complete Java Virtual Machine.

Novell

News update

The rise of the fourth largest PC maker

● Packard Bell Electronics, the leading PC maker in the American home computer market, has announced that it would "merge with the foreign PC operations of the NEC Corp. of Japan".

The new company, called Packard Bell NEC, would be a very powerful company on the international PC scene, and should allow NEC to strengthen

its position among other Japanese PC makers.

NEC and Bell's jointly owned company, Zenith Data Systems, will provide Packard Bell with notebook computers and servers, which link desktop computers together in network. This should widen the product range on offer from Packard Bell.

This deal could create a new company which will be the fourth-largest PC vendor, after Compaq Computer Corp., IBM, and Apple Computer Inc.

According to 1995 figures, the new company would have 15.1 percent of the American personal computer market, while NEC and Packard Bell-NEC together would have 11.4 percent of the world market.

These developments will guarantee that packard bell will be able to face up to its rivals whose capital is, or used to be up until this deal, much larger such as Compaq and IBM.

It's important to maintain Packard Bell's leading position in the retail market. Also, you can expect to see Packard Bell pushing forth into the corporate market with more strength.

The IBM Macintosh is near

● The Macintosh Operating System (MOS) is no longer exclusive to Apple computers, or

the limited number of compatibles that have arisen in the past two years. Following an agreement reached between IBM and Apple, you can expect to see Macintosh OS running on all sorts of computer brands.

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Euro '96: Highlights of first week games Swiss spoil the English party

England v. Switzerland
England put on a glorious coming-home party on Saturday, only to have it spoiled at going home time by guests intent on their own festivities.

Switzerland's late goal at Wembley to earn a 1-1 draw against the hosts in the opening match of Euro 96 proved a perfect damper to a carefully planned celebration honoring the nation which invented soccer.

From the very English pageantry of a lavish opening ceremony on the Wembley pitch to Alan Shearer's first half goal, everything seemed on course for a fitting home victory in the tournament organizers are billing as "Football comes home."

But at the final whistle the England team trooped off into the tunnel with their heads bowed in disappointment while the Swiss were rejoicing in front of their own fans as if they had won the tournament—thanks to Kibaly Turkilymaz's penalty seven minutes from time.

Denmark v. Portugal
Peter Schmeichel, the saviour of Manchester United on many occasions last season, was hailed as the hero of Denmark on Sunday. His team mates also waxed lyrical about the silky skills of their Portuguese opponents.

Rieper was singing Schmeichel's praises even though the two had a blazing row near the end of the drawn game over a misunderstanding which nearly let Tavares grab a last-gasp winner for Portugal.

Both players went to cut out a cross but pulled out at the last minute, leaving Tavares with a

gilt-edge chance he wasted with a mis-hit shot.

The Danes were impressed with the skillful quick-passing game employed by the Portuguese who probably provided the closest threat to South American flair that Euro 96 is likely to see.

France v. Romania
French coach Aime Jacquet said his promising team had used their heads to get out of trouble in the 1-0 European championship victory over Romania on Monday.

The French, strongly tipped to be a major force at Euro 96, showed they were maturing fast by overcoming a hesitant start to outplay a clever Romanian side.

"This Romanian team were very good and always dangerous. But we are getting more experienced and we used a great deal of intelligence," Jacquet said.

Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu said: "Christophe Dugarry's 24th minute headed goal had been a major mental blow to his side after they had been controlling the game."

"Our goalkeeper (Bogdan Stelea) was considerably at fault with the goal."

Germany v. Czech Republic
Given Germany's tendency to start tournaments with the splutter of a old car on a freezing morning, coach Berti Vogts should have been delighted with Sunday's smooth 2-0 defeat of the Czech Republic in their Euro 96 opener.

The fact the 49-year-old manager was quick to criticise his team for their slightly below-par second-half performance says a lot about his wor-

ries over the toughest group in the competition and the future of his job.

"For 60 minutes we played extremely well but I am not pleased with the passive football we played for the last 30," the 1974 World Cup-winning player said. At Euro 96 they have been drawn with Italy and Russia in group C which Vogts calls the "group of death."

Spectacular first-half goals from defender Christian Ziege and midfielder Andy Moeller set the tone for a comfortable win which should give the Germans confidence before their next game against Russia next Sunday.

"It is very important to get a result like this but we need to get better," goalkeeper Andy Koepke said. "Now we can face the Russians with more self-confidence."

The most negative point of the game was the injury to experienced defender Jurgen Kohler. Captain for the day in the absence of the suspended Jurgen Klinsmann, the Borussia Dortmund player has been ruled out of the rest of the tournament because of torn knee ligaments.

With midfielder Mario Basler undergoing an ankle operation last week, and six yellow cards collected on Sunday, Vogts may have problems putting a team together later in the tournament.

Scotland v. Holland
Underdogs Scotland put up a spirited battle to hold the fancied Dutch to a goalless draw in their opening match of the European championship on Monday.

With the Dutch starting as if they aimed to win at a canter,



England's Shearer reaches for the ball over Switzerland's Bonnavan

Scotland looked overawed by the orange armada facing them in the early part of the game.

But once Dennis Bergkamp and his team mates had squandered several early chances, Scotland seemed to realise that the Dutch were only human after all and forced their way into the match.

The draw, the fourth in Euro 96's first five games, left group A wide open with England and Switzerland also on one point.

The Dutch team, built around a nucleus of Ajax Amsterdam players, crucially missed three of the most important—the suspended Danny Blind and injured Frank De Boer and Marc Overmars, both ruled out of the tournament before it began.

Against a disciplined Scottish defence which kept Bergkamp under tight rein, the orange men just lacked the vital spark of imagination which would have made the difference.

Italy v. Russia
Italy gave Euro 96 its first classic match on Tuesday with a thrilling 2-1 win over Russia which prompted coach Arrigo Sacchi to call his side's performance one of its best in recent times.

Striker Pierluigi Casiraghi scored twice to become the tournament's top scorer so far

and put his team level on points with Germany at the head of group C.

After a tight first half, Italy turned on the style to produce exhibition football which delighted the 35,000-strong crowd at Anfield, Liverpool.

Russia manager Oleg Romanov blamed the defeat on errors made by his more experienced players as well as the lack of will to win.

Croatia v. Turkey
Croatia, widely fancied as a good outside bet for Euro 96, came away from a rain-soaked match against Turkey in Nottingham with three points.

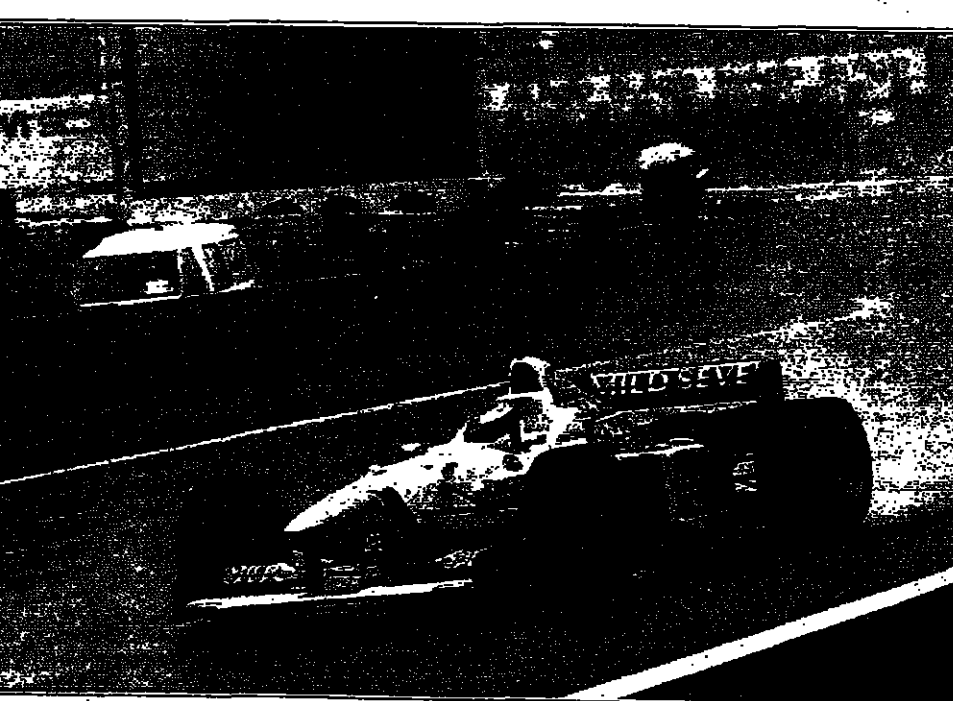
A stunning solo goal by substitute Goran Vlaovic four minutes from time sealed a disappointing game which completed the first series of matches in the tournament.

Vlaovic, who replaced the bandaged Alen Boksic after 73 minutes, picked up the ball in his own half, outpaced the chasing defenders and after running fully 50 metres rounded goalkeeper Rustu Recber for the winner.

Turkey looked sharp in the opening exchanges but never seriously troubled opposing goalkeeper Drazen Ladice.

Zvonimir Boban and Robert Prosinecki also made little headway.

Hill determined as Villeneuve comes home



DAMON HILL realizes the importance of the next four grands prix, starting with the Canadian race on Sunday 16 June, as he chases his first Formula One world title. The British driver, still leads his Rothmans Williams, Renault team-mate Jacques Villeneuve and World Champion Michael Schumacher by 17 points going into this eighth round of the title chase, despite failing to finish the last two grands prix.

"We are reaching a crucial stage of the season and we should know a lot more about the final outcome of the championship within the next two months," said Hill, who is chasing his first victory at the Montreal circuit. "We are working very hard to keep up the advantage we established at the beginning of the season, but many of the other teams are making big strides forward and it should be a very interesting race in Canada. Obviously I'm very disappointed with my results in Monaco and Spain, but we must learn from our mistakes, put them behind us, and get

back to winning ways."

For Villeneuve it will be a massive homecoming for his first race in Canada driving Formula One car and since winning the World IndyCar Championship last year. The pressure will be on the broad shoulders of the 25-year-old as he races on the 4.421 km (2.74 mile) Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, named after his late father. After failing to score points following his first Grand Prix victory at the Nurburgring, he bounced back to form with a third place in the Barcelona race.

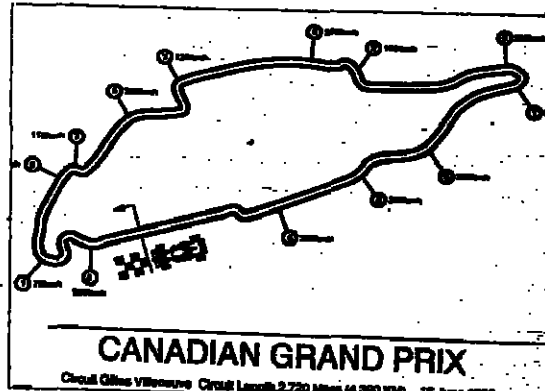
"I gained a lot of experience in Spain on how the car will react in wet conditions and now Schumacher and myself are nearer to Damon and the championship is getting more and more exciting."

Drivers returning to Canada will witness a number of changes to the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. The former Casino bend has been replaced with a new Casino straight, while much of the northern part of the track has been resurfaced. The circuit is built on an island on the site of Expo '67 and formed a key part of the Montreal Olympics. The first grand prix was held there in 1978.

"I would like to take the King of Spain round the track in Canada after he brought me so much luck in Barcelona," revealed the World Champion, who won the Montreal race in 1994. "This week we will be doing more tests and we are hoping to make further changes to the car. It's a competitive car in the chicanes and this should certainly help us in Canada."

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CANADIAN GRAND PRIX